

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 282

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2011

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## POLL RESULTS

Where do you intend to spend Thanksgiving this year?

At home 107

At a restaurant 12

At a hotel 5

At the beach 8

Elsewhere 18

Sunday, November 27, 2011



INSIDE



## Black (Eye) Friday

Pepper-sprayed customers, smash-and-grab looters and bloody scenes in the shopping aisles. How did Black Friday devolve into this?

Business...Page 14



## Society's Scourge

Pope Benedict XVI insisted on Saturday that all of society's institutions and not just the Catholic church must be held to "exacting" standards in their response to sex abuse of children.

World...Page 17

PSS alarmed by illegal drug, marijuana use in campuses. **PAGE 2**  
'Japan-based major investor pulls out from COP.' **PAGE 3**

## INSTEAD OF GRANTING PAROLE

# Fitial wants USCIS to rid CNMI of illegal aliens

» Governor blames 'pressure' from those who pushed for federalization  
» AG confirms review underway

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Fitia

Besides saying that he might file a lawsuit to stop U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services from granting new parole, Gov. Benigno R. Fitia also wants USCIS to rid the CNMI of "illegal aliens," many of whom he said could be among those eligible for the parole that USCIS announced last week.

See FITIAL on Page 4

## Pastoral letter calls for 'respect' to those affected by immigration changes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Jimenez

A three-page pastoral letter from the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa has called for respect and prayers for many nonresidents and residents affected by immigration changes in the CNMI.

"This call for respect, practice of charity and solidarity is grounded in Sacred Scriptures," said Fr. Ryan Jimenez, apostolic adminis-

trator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Umbrella permits expired yesterday, and those who do not have legal employers or who do not have parole in place face loss of immigration status and could be subject to removal.

Jimenez pointed to pertinent social teachings of the Catholic Church as a guide in dealing with current events such as

See PASTORAL on Page 4

## USCIS: Do not abandon CW filing for workers eligible for new parole

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said yesterday that CNMI employers should not abandon their filing of Commonwealth-only worker petition

for nonresidents eligible for a new parole that USCIS announced last week.

That new parole, valid until Dec. 31, 2012, will be granted on a case by case basis, and those eligible have to apply for it. Those covered are mostly immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain

"stateless" individuals in the CNMI.

The new parole does not offer additional benefits. All it does it to allow legal presence, not work authorization or other benefit.

USCIS regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts said "employers

should NOT abandon their I-129CW filing for CW workers eligible for the new parole."

"The parole does NOT have the continuing employment provision that is available with the CW-1 if filed by Nov.

See USCIS on Page 4



## BOOK SALE

A man selects from a wide selection of used books, magazines, and journals for sale at very low prices during the Friends of the Library's book sale in front of the Joteten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe on Saturday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO





## Local

# PSS alarmed by illegal drug, marijuana use in campuses

» **COE asserts zero tolerance policy on drug possession; will use dogs in periodic checks**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan is asserting the Public School Systems' zero tolerance policy on illegal drug possession and marijuana use in all its campuses following a reported increase in incidents of illegal drug possession and marijuana use in school premises.

Sablan disclosed to staff, through a memorandum, that throughout school year 2011-

2012, PSS will implement unannounced period drug checks in all high school and junior high school campuses using the Department of Customs' detective dogs in the searches.

The commissioner told staff in a Nov. 18, 2011 memorandum that one of the biggest obstacles to teenagers reaching their full academic, social, and emotional potential is the use of alcohol and other drugs.

Over the past few months, she said PSS has received calls from concerned parents and

citizens who have witnessed PSS students smoking what appears to be marijuana while walking to school or waiting for their bus ride.

"Also, since the start of the school year, PSS administrators have taken disciplinary action against several PSS students either

found with drugs on campus or coming to school under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

CNMI PSS has a zero tolerance policy for drug possession or drug use on campus," said Sablan, adding that PSS, to enforce this policy, will take additional steps to educate students about the dangers and consequences of drug use.

Sablan said it is the ultimate goal of PSS to educate students to make healthy and safe choices regarding illicit

substances and to ensure that these substances are not brought onto any school campus.

She said PSS is working in partnership with the Division of Customs to bring their canine drug detection unit onto PSS campuses.

"We will use the dogs to implement unannounced, period drug sweeps on all high school and junior high school campuses throughout the remainder of this school year. The drug detection dogs will be used by Customs officers to detect presence of drugs in school hallways,

empty classrooms, and parking lots," she said.

While the search is on, all students will remain either in their classes or in the cafeteria. Alongside this stepped-up enforcement, PSS is also planning additional education for students about the dangers and health implications of drug use.

Sablan said the PSS leadership team and the Youth Advisory Panel in collaboration with community stakeholders will bring programs, seminars, and workshops throughout the year.



Sablan

## 2 days after acquittal on murder charges, man smokes marijuana

Franklin Cabrera Cepeda Jr. smoked marijuana two days after a Superior Court jury rendered a not guilty verdict on him for murder charges in connection with the 2000 killing of a businessman inside a karaoke bar in San Jose, according to the U.S. Probation Office.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola, in a report filed last week in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, said Cepeda admitted in writing that he had used marijuana on Oct. 9, 2011 shortly after his release from the Department of Corrections.

Arriola said that, in January 2003, the district court sentenced Cepeda to 14 months in prison and placed him on probation for three years for his mail theft conviction.

In July 2003, the Office of the Attorney General charged Cepeda with murder, robbery, and other charges, over the killing of Rhon Zhou at a karaoke bar.

In March 2005, Cepeda was sentenced to 66 years in jail after he was found guilty for the murder of Zhou. In 2009, the CNMI Supreme Court vacated the conviction and remanded the case to the Superior Court for a new trial.

On Oct. 7, 2011, the jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding Cepeda not guilty of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, robbery, and conspiracy.

Associate judge Perry B. Inos, who presided over the retrial and decided the misdemeanor charges, found Cepeda guilty of assault and battery, and theft.

Inos sentenced the defendant to the maximum one year in prison and \$1,000 fine each as to assault and battery, and theft.

Since Cepeda had been in detention for eight years

at the time, he was released from DOC that same day, Oct. 7.

U.S. Probation Officer Arriola said in his report that a term of supervised release does not run during any period in which the person is imprisoned in connection with a conviction for a federal, state, or local crime unless the imprisonment is for a period of less than 30 consecutive days.

"As a result of this statute, Mr. Cepeda's term of supervised release did not begin until his release from the Department of Corrections on Oct. 7, 2011," Arriola said.

On Oct. 11, 2011, Arriola said, Cepeda reported to the U.S. Probation Office and submitted to a drug test.

Arriola said the specimen results were negative, however, it appeared to be diluted.

The probation officer said when asked if he had recently used an drugs, Cepeda denied using, but stated he was around with friends who were smoking marijuana.

Arriola said Cepeda was warned about associating with people involved in illegal activity and also warned not to drink large amounts of fluids prior to a drug test.

Arriola said Cepeda eventually admitted smoking marijuana on Oct. 9 and apologized for his actions.

The officer said since Oct. 11, Cepeda has consistently tested negative for the use of a controlled substance.

Arriola said Cepeda will be monitored closely and further incidents of noncompliance will be reported to court immediately.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the Probation Office's recommendation that no action should be taken against Cepeda. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Fall head over heels with these awesome deals!

# FALL SALE

Quad-band  
Extended Memory  
3.15 MP Camera

**Sony Ericsson C510**  
**\$79\***

Quad-band  
Flip-Phone  
Extended Memory  
3.15 MP Camera

**Sony Ericsson T707**  
**\$79\***

**Samsung B2710**  
**\$49\***

Quad-band  
Extended Memory  
Wi-Fi, 2 Email/IM  
Certified Dustproof  
& Waterproof

**Nokia X3-02**  
**\$99\***

Quad-band, Touch screen & Keypad, Extended Memory, Wi-Fi, 5 Megapixel Camera, FM Radio, MP3 Player, & Flashlight.

**Nokia E5**  
**\$99**

Quad-band, QWERTY Keyboard  
Extended Memory  
5 MP Camera  
Wi-Fi, Email/Push-Email, FM Radio, MP3 Player, & Flashlight.

**HTC Tattoo**  
**\$149**

Quad-band, Touch screen, Extended Memory  
3.15 MP Camera  
Wi-Fi, Email/IM  
Android OS V1.6

**NTT docomo** DOCOMO PACIFIC

CNMI'S Most powerful GSM Network. Islandwide. Worldwide.

**60 Day FREE RBT Service with these offers.**

483-CARE  
www.docomopacific.com  
Middle Road  
\*conditions apply. Visit store for details



# 'Japan-based major investor pulls out from COP'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

An accountant recently terminated by Coral Ocean Point Resort Club disclosed that Japan-based investor Yusuke Fumoto had already pulled out from COP.

Angelina "Tin" Podiquit told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that everybody knows at COP that Fumoto, who also served as chief executive officer and president of COP, had already backed out.

Podiquit said the COP management even announced the news during a F&B staff meeting two weeks ago that Fumoto indeed backed out.

The accountant is preparing a lawsuit against Suwaso over her alleged termination without cause, which according to her was unlawful.

*Saipan Tribune* yesterday sent an email to Suwaso Corp. chair Vincent Torres for comment, but as of press time Torres had yet to reply.

In early November, *Saipan*

*Tribune* asked Torres about the same issue—the pull out of an investor—after learning about it from at least two lawyers.

On Nov. 4, Torres replied that everything in Suwaso is going on as planned.

"You may hear rumors here and there but that's what they are—just rumors," said Torres, who is a lawyer.

Podiquit said Fumoto put up capital at COP in the amount of \$169,000.

Podiquit said actually three investors had already backed out and Fumoto was the latest one.

The accountant said when she came to work last Nov. 22 after taking a two-day sick leave, Rowina O. Torres, the wife of Vincent Torres and COP's general operations manager, handed her a letter that terminated her employment effective that same day.

Podiquit said she was asked to get her things and was escorted by two employees out of the COP premises that morning.

"They treated me like a criminal," said the 48-year-old Podiquit, who started work at COP in October 2007.

Podiquit said she has no idea why she was terminated except the fact that she was only truthful to vendors, who would follow up payments, that COP has no money.

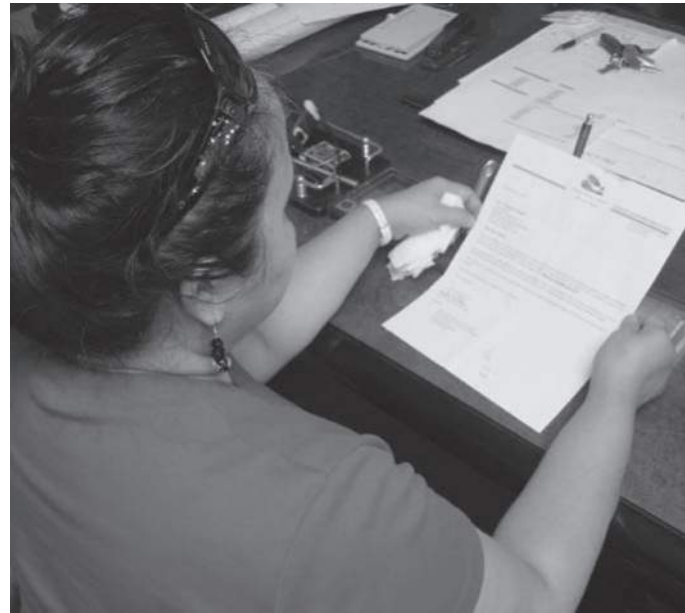
She said according to her contract, she should have been notified 30 days prior to termination without a cause.

If her termination is with cause, she should be given 10 days notice pursuant to the contract, Podiquit said.

The accountant's employment contract with COP expired on Oct. 22, 2011, according to Mrs. Torres in the termination letter.

"The new management and owners regret to have to inform you that we have reached a decision to discontinue your employment with us, which will become, effective Nov. 22, 2011," said Mrs. Torres in the letter.

Last Aug. 5, after almost



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Angelina "Tin" Podiquit, an accountant, shows the termination letter handed to her by the Coral Ocean Point Resort Club's new management on Nov. 22, 2011. She disclosed that Japan-based major investor Yusuke Fumoto had already pulled out from COP.

two hours of debate, the Senate and the House of Representatives approved Suwaso Corp.'s proposed 15-year ex-

tension on its 25-year public land lease for COP.

The joint session went ahead despite Gov. Benigno R.

Fitial's request to members of the House leadership to postpone a vote on the deal.

The approval of Suwaso's extended lease was supposed to pave the way for a \$22-million upgrade of COP's hotel and golf course facilities and the construction of 200 new guest rooms.

The new Suwaso owners then promised to settle the previous owners' debts to the CNMI government in tax arrears of almost \$1 million, and with other CNMI private and public agencies using an immediate infusion of \$7 million.

COP is located on 735,023 square meters in Unai Dang-kulu. Under the law, any lease and extension of lease of public land consisting of more than five hectares requires legislative approval.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres (Ind-Saipan) had questioned why the new COP owners were then rushing the approval of the lease extension.

## \$50,000 cash bail for driver of getaway vehicle used in brazen Garapan robbery

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on Oscar Porras Jr., the alleged driver of a getaway vehicle used in the robbery in which a female Japanese tourist was dragged several meters by a car.

Wiseman set such amount in issuing an arrest warrant on Friday for the 33-year-old Porras on charges of robbery, theft, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

A check by *Saipan Tribune*

yesterday revealed that Porras was under the custody of the Department of Corrections.

It was not clear whether police had served him with the arrest warrant for the robbery or he failed to post bail in the other case in which he was arrested for allegedly stealing a case of beer from Grand Market.

Porras is expected to be taken to court today, Monday, in connection with the robbery case.

Porras' cousin, Gustavo Ybanez Jr., was first arrested last

week after a witness identified him as the man who grabbed the bag from the tourist along Beach Road, Garapan, on Nov. 16, Wednesday night.

Sources said Ybanez confessed to detectives that it was Porras who was the driver of their getaway vehicle—a dark-colored Nissan Pathfinder.

After the robbery, Ybanez and Porras split the \$350 cash they found in the tourist's bag. Ybanez allegedly gave \$150 cash to Porras. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Diabetic?

Visit the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care

## Why?

- **Advanced Technologies**
  - State of the art diagnostic equipment
  - Advanced lasers and surgeries
- **Newest Vision Saving Treatments**
- **Top Doctors**
  - Mark Robertson, OD  
Magna Cum Laude
  - David Khorram, MD  
America's Top Ophthalmologists  
Researcher in Diabetic Eye Care



**Marianas Eye Institute**  
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Most Insurance Accepted  
Walk-ins welcome

**235-9090**

Beach Road, Garapan  
www.MarianasEye.com



### OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

#### APPROXIMATELY 14,666 SQ. FT. PRIME OFFICE SPACE

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF) is soliciting proposals to lease approximately 14,666 square feet of prime office space on the second and third floors (approximately 7000 sq.ft. per floor) of the Retirement Fund Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. Ideally located across from the Governor's Office and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the building has a backup generator, 24-hour water service, and ample parking space for employees and visitors. Space is available for viewing immediately.

Minimum acceptable terms include the following:

- Per square foot per month, Triple Net (higher for less than full available footage);
- Lessee responsible for own utilities, as well as cost to separately meter;
- 24 months minimum lease term; and
- First month, last month and reasonable security deposit required (amount depends on credit history and financial strength of Lessee).

All proposals are subject to acceptance by the NMIRF Board of Trustees in its sole discretion.

/s/ RICHARD S. VILLAGOMEZ  
Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund

## YTT GOLD Jewelry 元通金行

Visit YTT Gold Jewelry today

Exchange your unwanted, damage, outdated and worn **Gold** for **CASH!**

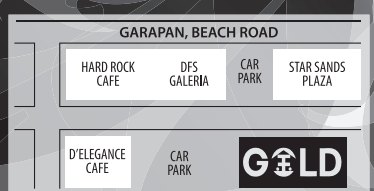


- Bring any GOLD items to our store in Garapan
- Our Consultants will test and value you GOLD items
- We will give you CASH on the spot!

Tel. No.: 233-2368

Business Hours  
10:00am - 8:00pm  
Sunday Closed

Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza



## Hawaiian Style Silver Jewelry & Gift Shop

- ★ Fine Hawaiian Silver Jewelry
- ★ Hawaiian T-shirts and Local wear
- ★ Hawaiian Gifts
- ★ On-line ordering services

Hawaiian Style Discount Card  
**10-20% OFF**  
on selected items

Seasoned Citizen Discount **10% OFF**  
on selected items  
(every Wednesdays)

Happy Birthday Discount **10% OFF**  
on selected items on Birth date

Marked-Down section **20-80% OFF**  
on selected items  
(Daily)



Located in Kilelema Building, Palm Street, Garapan  
Telephone No. 233-6970 Open Everyday 3pm - 10pm



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Immunization Clinic to open for required student immunizations

Effective Nov. 23, 2011, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Immunization Clinic, located at the Commonwealth Health Center on Lower Navy Hill, will open five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, including lunch hours, primarily to accommodate students in need of their required immunizations for school entrance, as mandated by Public Law 6-10.

Public Law 6-10 requires all school children to be up to date with required immunizations prior to enrolling in any public or private school in the CNMI. Parents are urged to comply with this mandate and to contact the Immunization Program for further assistance.

Furthermore, parents of children who are not enrolled in school yet are also urged to make sure their children are up to date with all their immunizations and to visit the Immunization Clinic or any private clinic, including

Tinian Health Center and Rota Health Center if their children are not fully immunized with their required shots. No appointment is necessary at the CHC Immunization Clinic and all vaccines are provided at no cost.

For more information, contact the Immunization Clinic at 236-8745 or 236-8708/80/81. **(PR)**

### Navy, Air Force set training on WA-517, FDM

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on Nov. 29 and 30 from 8am to 5pm. The U.S. Air Force, meanwhile, will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 1, from 7am to 10pm, and on Dec. 2-3, from 7am to 6pm.

The public-especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators-are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of

Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. **(PR)**

### Drivers urged to watch out for cyclists

Motorists are being urged to be particularly cautious when driving on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 3, when the CNMI hosts the 5th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle.

In a notice issued by Pacific Islands Club, it said that cyclists will be riding in packs from 6:30am to 9:30am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman and Capital Hill.

There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive in the morning, it will prevent heavy

traffic congestion and enhance safety for all.

For additional safety measures, the public is being encouraged to restrain their dogs in the morning along the route. The 100km (62-mile) course takes racers from PIC through Koblerville to the Airport, past Herman's Bakery through San Vicente, Papago, down to Lao Lao Golf Course entrance and back, down to Kingfisher Golf Links and back, down Capital Hill, to the top of San Roque's Radar Station, to Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, the Grotto, Banzai Cliff, to American Memorial Park, and back to PIC.

Approximately 200 cyclists are ex-

pected to race in this international event with professionals from Australia, Russia, Korea, Japan, Guam, and Saipan.

"Drivers, please be careful as more bicyclists will be riding on the roads training from now until Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011," the notice said. **(PR)**

### Palau Community Association meeting Saturday

Palau Community Association will be holding an important meeting on Dec. 3, 9am at Navy Hill for the 16th state president officers and all Palauans in the islands are invited. For more information, call Felisa Brel at 989-2735 or PCA president Rufino Aguon at 483-6232. **(PR)**

## FITIAL

From Page 1

"I will not allow this continuing parole to allow burdens, illegal aliens to stay another year. Kili came out and said the governor should have a heart. Yeah, I have a heart for my people. Where does his heart belong? My people are suffering because they cannot get jobs because the burdens continue to proliferate (sic) their illegal employment," the governor said.

But USCIS said the grant of parole is on a "case-by-case basis," and eligible individuals have to apply for this kind of parole. Those eligible parents of U.S. citizen children, among other things, need to be "legally present and reside in the CNMI as of Nov. 27, 2011."

USCIS has yet to issue instructions how to apply for such parole.

Fitial, who marked his 66th birthday yesterday, also said there's "pressure" on USCIS to consider granting certain nonresidents parole until Dec. 31, 2012.

The governor, now president again of the CNMI Republican Party, said the pressure comes from U.S. Senate staffer and former Interior official Allen Stayman and others who pushed for the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

"There's pressure on USCIS and I can tell you where these pressures are coming from. These are the same players that originated and concocted the CNRA, the federalization legislation," the governor said in an interview.

Attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, meanwhile, confirmed yesterday that the governor has requested the Office of the Attorney General "to review the status and legal issues related to the USCIS not completing a case-by-case review by Nov. 27, 2011."

"This review is underway," he said.

Buckingham also said that the conclusions, legal analysis, and options will be presented to the governor pursuant to his request. He said such materials are covered by attorney-client privilege and are not subject to public disclosure.

"Additionally, given that this matter may involve potential litigation, further public comment from the AGO is not appropriate at this time," he added.

Some nonresidents eligible for the new USCIS parole said yesterday that they hope Fitial will not block USCIS from granting them parole.

"Every night, we also pray for the governor," said one of the nonresidents participating in a peaceful vigil at the Occupy USCIS tent in Garapan.

### 'I have a heart'

Fitial said he has a "heart," responding

role, and encourages people to continue checking [www.uscis.gov/cnmi](http://www.uscis.gov/cnmi) for updates on the latest guidance.

A 33-year-old nonresident who was supposed to request humanitarian parole on Friday said he decided to hold off mailing that humanitarian parole request when he heard about USCIS' announcement last week of a new parole for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain stateless individuals.

But he does not have an umbrella permit, and he does not have a current employer, and no longer has any status to remain in the CNMI.

He's hoping that the new USCIS parole will be enough. He said he has three U.S. citizen children.

"So now I'm just waiting for USCIS' instruction," he said in an interview yesterday. He asked that his name be withheld from publication.

But he said if not having a legal status as of Nov. 27 or Nov. 28 would disqualify him from the new parole, then he would still consider filing a request for humanitarian parole today. The father of three said he has found an employer who will file a CW petition for him, but only after he obtains parole in place.

Some nonresidents have also asked for clarification about CW filing and the new USCIS parole, and thanked USCIS for clarifying the matter.

As of Nov. 18, USCIS said 1,405 CW-1 workers were sponsored on 777 Form I-129CW petitions. They were filed by 241 employers. USCIS is expected to release the latest data on CW filings this week.

The final worker rule estimates 13,399 foreign workers in the CNMI who are "potentially eligible" for CW status.

cerns," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nov. 27 is the first Sunday of Advent or the beginning of a new cycle in the Church's liturgical calendar. Yesterday was the first day when Catholic faithful saw revisions in the English translation of prayers and responses at Mass from the original Latin text.

But Jimenez said Nov. 27 also marks an important turn in the CNMI community. He pointed to the last day of the validity of umbrella permits for nonresidents. Federalization of CNMI immigration brought new immigration requirements for non-U.S. citizens on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and any quest for their continued stay in the islands.

"The population it impacts is significant enough to impose many changes in our parishes, villages and the Commonwealth at large... The Diocese itself has had to review the nonresident status of those assisting with its mission, including members of the clergy and the religious," Jimenez said.

The apostolic administrator said as Nov. 27 approached, there were those who left the islands to return home or left elsewhere to seek gainful employment, those who remained after securing approved status, and those who did not secure approved status but remained hopeful for a perceived outcome.

"In any event, Nov. 27, 2011 is now here and changes are imminent... Through this pastoral letter, I, together

with the clergy of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, are one in prayer with the many nonresidents and residents alike who are affected with this reality," he said.

Some nonresidents who are taking part in the Occupy USCIS movement said yesterday they are also thankful that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will consider granting parole to certain groups of people including parents of U.S. citizen children.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement and is taking part in the movement to ask USCIS to grant parole for all legal aliens, said the Occupy USCIS movement has also been praying for those affected by the immigration changes and those who want to oppose any effort to help those affected by these changes.

Manuel T. Vilaga, a concerned citizen also supporting the Occupy USCIS movement, said he will always pray that the "fruits of your hardships and contribution in the development of the CNMI in the form of long-term foreign workers who are not part of HR 1466 be recognized, appreciated, and rewarded by the federal government."

"Hold on together and remain law-abiding citizens in the U.S. Commonwealth, the land of liberty, freedom, and democracy under the American heritage. Do not be afraid to do the right thing, God bless," he said.

## USCIS

From Page 1

28 and it is important that all recognize this fact," Sebrechts said.

She said "without the CW filing, the worker must stop working on November 27, 2011 and would not be able to work with parole until an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) is granted and that could be several months."

"So, employers should file for those CW-1 workers as planned if they want the workers to be able to continue working after Nov. 27," she said.

Yesterday, Nov. 27, marked the expiration of CNMI-issued umbrella permits.

USCIS said it will soon release guidance for applying for this kind of pa-

## PASTORAL

From Page 1

immigration.

Of the five guiding principles of Catholic social teaching on immigration in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter, "Strangers No Longer," Jimenez pointed to the fifth principle of upholding the dignity of the human person.

That fifth guiding principle is this: "All immigrants possess inherent human dignity, which should be respected in all cases."

"With this as our basis for relating with one another, there should be no room for hatred with our fellow human being. In recognizing the rights of every individual and in upholding the laws, we should try our best to instill basic respect with one another," Jimenez said.

Ligaya Almodiel, a nonresident worker in the CNMI since 1994, said she's thankful that the Church shares the concern of many of its parishioners who are affected by immigration changes.

Almodiel went to church at 6am yesterday, and she said that's when she learned about the pastoral letter.

"Many individuals in the congregation are affected by this, and I am thankful the Church shares their con-

to a statement earlier made by Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

"I want the people to understand that I have a heart but my heart goes out to my people first. So if Kili doesn't have a heart for his own people who voted for him into office, then he got to check his heart doctor," the governor said.

In an interview with reporters, Sablan said he hopes that Fitial would find it in his heart on "to acknowledge that these are families we are trying to help. The holidays are here. Christmas is coming and we need to open our hearts and find in our hearts that this is the right thing to do."

Sablan, on his way back to Washington, D.C., said the people he's trying to help with his H.R. 1466 are U.S. citizens who happened to have non-U.S. citizen immediate relatives.

But Fitial asked, "Right. Does the federal law allow that? There's a federal law that disallows that. He's in Washington, so he should know the federal law."

The governor, who sued the federal government over federalization, said USCIS should "do their job to implement [Public Law] 110-229 to get rid of the burdens, to get rid of the illegals so that my people can avail of the employment opportunities that are now being occupied by these illegals."

Fitial said USCIS' decision is "not right because they have to review cases and then make determinations. But they are waiting for another year to do their job that's why my message to them? 'Do your job now. Why wait another year?'"

The governor reiterated that he will set up a meeting with USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas when he goes to Washington, D.C. in February for a National Governors Association meeting.

"February is only a few months (away), but I'm going to try to stop this extension, another year extension of proliferating the source of opportunities for my people," he said.

When asked whether he intends to file a lawsuit to stop USCIS from granting paroles to these individuals, the governor said: "Well I might go that route but I have to wait for the AG's decision."

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said many nonresidents will benefit from USCIS' decision, and he thanked Sablan for helping many of these eligible individuals.

Syed, however, said UWM will continue to ask the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to grant parole in place for all legal aliens as of Nov. 27, 2011 until U.S. Congress initiates action to grant improved immigration status to long-term legal aliens in the CNMI.



# Austerity exemption for key sections at CHC sought

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta will seek an exemption to the government's austerity Fridays for personnel working in key administrative sections at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Babauta said these sections

are instrumental in the revenue-generating capacity of the newly formed corporation, which took over CHC as well as Tinian and Rota Health centers last Oct. 1.

Babauta, along with acting director for medical affairs Dr. Dan Lamar, personally made the request to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos during the official's visit to the hospital last week.

Babauta said that recently,

he issued a memorandum to personnel stating that the Fitial administration's policy on the austerity measure is still in effect at the hospital despite it now being a semi-government agency.

"I didn't submit yet for an exemption and I issued a memorandum carrying out that the policy of the administration that the austerity measure is in still

in effect. Yes, there are discussions right now as to the reasons why some units [administrative sections] need to be opened because of the critical services that we provide to the community and the potential for us to generate revenues from these services," he said.

Babauta said that he's glad that the lieutenant governor made a personal visit to CHC

and saw for himself the importance of the hospital's key departments.

Under the 2011 appropriations measure, only doctors and nurses are included on the austerity Friday exemption list due to the urgency of their services.

But according to Dr. Lamar, it is during austerity Fridays and other non-working holidays that the bulk of the public troop to

the hospital to avail of services. Because administrative offices and other clinics are closed during austerity Fridays, this has hampered the corporation's potential to receive payment from some services which, if chosen, could be availed by patients.

Lamar, Babauta, and Inos discussed this exemption request in an meeting last week.

Inos told *Saipan Tribune* that he will convey Babauta's request for an exemption of other hospital employees to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"From my standpoint, I would talk to the governor about this matter because on the surface, it appears that we have to be available 24/7 to make sure that we provide the medical needs and delivery of healthcare services to our people. We will work on this," said Inos during the meeting, adding that Babauta will be asked to provide the list of offices and personnel that will be recommended exempted from the austerity Fridays.

Babauta earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the hospital has 25 physicians and over 200 nurses onboard. Total employees absorbed by the corporation was estimated at nearly 600 in the three islands.

## 250 care packages sent to NMI soldiers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Members of the community trooped to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center Saturday morning to volunteer their time in preparing special Christmas presents for their sisters and brothers in military service.

Operation CNMI Home Front Support once again had a successful donation drive after yielding about 250 care packages, all of which were sent Saturday to CNMI service members deployed in different parts of the world.

Since the campaign started three years ago, over 1,000 care packages have been sent by the organization to service members during the holidays. Counting the 250 care packages this year, a total of 1,352 care packages have been shipped.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that there are between 500 and 600 military service members from the CNMI who are deployed around the world and the Commonwealth so far is the only state or territory holding a home front support for service members.

Geri Willis, team coordinator and founder of the annual activity, was elated about the over-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers are seen busy packing the donated goods for local military service members last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

whelming turnout of support to the campaign.

There were over 80 volunteers who took part in Saturday's packing of donations and among them were students, employees of partner agencies, some lawmakers, and community members.

Although the biggest challenge throughout the campaign was obtaining the names and addresses of soldiers serving in various services, Willis said yesterday that community involvement and participation helped in this effort.

Willis thanked all the sponsors and volunteers who consistently poured in their support for the campaign. Including the shipping cost, which was also shouldered by major sponsors, everything in the care packages were donated, which included canned goods, newspapers and reading materials, letters from schoolchildren, and other items.

In each care package, a letter

to soldier-recipient was attached emphasizing the community's gratitude of their service and sacrifices.

The list of all sponsors and partners were also provided and they include Northern Marianas College, MCV, Docomo Pacific, American Red Cross, Bridge Capital, IT&E, Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan, Public School System, Hafadai Productions, Inc., SDA Dental Clinic, Sorensen Media Group, Power 99, Tina Palacios, KZMI, KKMP, Betelnut Radio, Trench Tech, Genpro International, Herman's Bakery, Saipan Southern High School, *Beach Road Magazine*, *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, Dr. Jack Hardy, Mt. Carmel, VFW, Stampers, Joeten Susupe, and Super Fresh Market.

## Business For Sale Music And

### Retail store carries video games, DVDs, CDs, etc

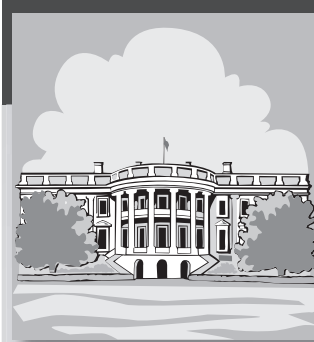
Call telephone no. (670) 234-8971  
between 14:00 – 20:00  
or email [musicarcadia2@hotmail.com](mailto:musicarcadia2@hotmail.com)

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

Presidential Proclamation, November 2011:

"During National Diabetes Month, we remember those we have lost to diabetes, and we stand with the millions of Americans who have been touched by its consequences. As a Nation, it is our task to reduce the incidence of this illness and offer care and support to those it affects."

— President Barack Obama



Diabetes is treatable and an eye exam is a simple thing to do that could be the difference between catching diabetes early and getting treatment, or going blind. Dr. Don Hardt and Helen He, R.N. are the CNMI's only Certified Diabetes Educators and are here to help and answer your questions, whether simple or complicated.



**HARDT EYE CLINIC** 235-2030  
Yes, we accept your insurance—All major insurance plans accepted.

### Public Notice

Pursuant to 1CMC§ 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

### Agenda

- I. Preliminary
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
  - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments<sup>1</sup>
- III. Executive Session<sup>2</sup>
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
  - a. Determination of amount to be disbursed for Scholarship Awards.
- VI. Miscellaneous Matters
- VII. Discussion of Agenda for Next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

<sup>1</sup> We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.  
<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950,  
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536  
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: [nmidir@ovrgov.net](mailto:nmidir@ovrgov.net)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'12 First General Membership on Thursday, December 01, 2011 at the Caladium Hall, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY'11 4th Meeting Minutes (09/08/11)
- V. Reports
  - a. OVR Director
  - b. SRC Chairman
  - c. Sub-Committees
- VI. Old Business
  - FY 2012 Committee Activities
  - TSA Airport Security Briefing
  - OVR E-Rehab Modules Training
- VII. New Business
  - FY 2012 State Plan Forums
  - 2012 SRC Resource Plan
  - OVR Urgencies
- VIII. Consumer Forum
  - TSA Airport Security Presentation
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman  
CHAIRMAN



# Man arrested for allegedly threatening to kill brother, family

A man was arrested for allegedly threatening to kill his brother and family with a rifle during their argument over a land dispute on Saipan last Thursday.

Ramon Sablan Tudela was arrested for disturbing the peace and was taken to the Superior Court on Friday for a hearing.

Associate Judge Joseph James Norita Camacho found probable cause to justify the arrest of Tudela as to the charge of disturbing the peace.

Camacho imposed a \$1,000 cash bail for Tudela's temporary release.

A police detective testified

that during the argument, a rifle was found in Tudela's vehicle.

Apparently there was grabbing back and forth of the rifle between the brothers.

The judge prohibited Tudela from consuming any alcoholic beverages and ordered him to stay away from his brother as

part of the bail conditions.

In other news, a minor boy and a male teenager were arrested for allegedly entering a poker arcade in Koblerville while intoxicated and threatening to beat up a female cashier on Thursday.

Baxter Tomei was arrested

for minor consuming liquor and disturbing the peace.

The court imposed a \$50 cash and unsecured bond for Tomei's temporary release. The case against the minor boy was sealed.

A police detective said Tomei and the boy, who both appeared

intoxicated, went inside a poker establishment.

As the cashier asked them to leave, one of the suspects threatened to beat her up if she calls the police.

Responding police officers arrested the two boys as they fled outside. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## \$99 PARTY HEARTY WITH ISLANDER CAMPAIGN

### Islander Rent a Car launches anniversary promotion

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Islander Rent a Car has launched an exciting promotion that would afford customers the opportunity to avail a car rental while enjoying the services offered by its affiliate companies.

The \$99 Party Hearty with Islander campaign involves a one-day rental of a spanking new 2012 Toyota Yaris inclusive of collision damage waiver or CDW insurance, a hairdo and makeup for one person from ASKS Fashion and Salon in Garapan, and a complimentary bottle of red wine, white wine, or champagne from Islander Mini Mart.

The promotion runs from Nov. 23, 2011 to Jan. 23, 2012.

Aileen Arnold, vice president for Marfega Trading which runs the family owned and long-standing car rental company, said the promotion's launch

is timely for the holidays and ideal for any other occasion like birthdays and anniversaries.

Arnold said the promotion is also a fitting anniversary treat from Islander Rent a Car which has been committed to providing the car rental needs of the Commonwealth for 27 years on Nov. 15—and counting.

"We've come up with our \$99 Party Hearty promotion as another way for us to continue rewarding the community, especially our loyal customers who have patronized us through the years," Arnold told *Saipan Tribune*. "We want to give this to them as a thank you for doing business with us and for giving us the chance to do business with them."

Arnold said the \$99 promotion is an all-in-one package, making it a perfect gift idea for loved ones, for giveaways in corporate Christmas parties or simply to reward yourself for all your hard work for the year

that's about to end.

The company VP noted that the promotion also comes at a time when the community is faced with immigration uncertainties and economic challenges.

"We want to enlighten the people that despite these issues, we can still enjoy. That although the economy is tough, Islander Rent a Car wants to offer something that everyone can afford," she explained.

Arnold said customers who avail of this promotion can request upon reservation where to get their car rental at any of their five locations: main branch in Marfega Bldg. along Airport Road, Airport location, across Pacific Islands Club, and their two Garapan offices across from Poon's Restaurant and next to ASKS Fashion and Salon.

"We think about our customers' convenience so we serve them better through our different locations," she said.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marfega Trading vice president Aileen Arnold and Islander Rent a Car agent detailer Jason Sales strike a pose beside one of the 2012 Toyota Yaris to be used for the \$99 Party Hearty with Islander promotion which runs until Jan. 23, 2012.

Arnold noted that customers also have the choice to upgrade the car choice to a full-size sedan or an SUV for a minimal additional charge.

"It's not so often that you see a promotion like this that anyone can use," said Arnold, adding that this is also highlights and promotes the dedication and hard work of their employees whose excellent customer service has enabled Islander Rent a Car to establish a solid clientele base.

"Our employees provide great service. The customers appreciate it, that's why we have many regulars," she added.

With the anticipated merriment during Christmas and New Year celebrations, Arnold disclosed that they are in support of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to do away with drunk driving this holiday season.

"If you're going to a party, drive responsibly," said Arnold. "It's for your own safety."

Arnold thanked the community for their support and urged them to take advantage of their \$99 Party Hearty with Islander promotion for the best car rental deal this season.

"At Islander Rent a Car, we strive everyday to fulfill our corporate mission: no one serves you better, a ride with us is a plus," she added.

For more information, visit any of the Islander Rent a Car locations or call their 24-hour hotline at 234-8233.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### CUC-RFEI-12-001

#### Requests for Expressions of Interest For the Purchase or Operation of Public Utilities (A Non-Binding, Informal Market Survey)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), a public corporation, is interested in the potential for privatization of its services. Desired is for interested firms, individuals, or groups to present an "Expression of Interest" for the privatization and/or transfer of CUC Utility Services. Expressions of Interest may include in whole, in part, or in business sector: direct purchase, operating contract schemes, and/or utility agency or co-operative formation(s) for the Electrical Power Generation Systems, Electrical Transmission and Distribution Systems, and Water and Wastewater Utility Services.

*The Request for Expressions of Interest is an exploratory project in order to survey market interest in owning and/or operating the utility. It is not intended to be a formal or informal procurement process and CUC does not express or imply that any future procurement and/or acquisition process will occur, or that any preference will be given to those replying.*

The CUC invites suitably qualified utility owners and operators with proven records of accomplishment in power generation, transmission, distribution, and water and wastewater utility ownership and operations to submit an EOI to purchase and operate the referenced CUC operations and facilities. CUC will review all Expressions of Interests received, and based in part on these submittals, will decide on whether to pursue privatization further. This EOI is an exploratory survey of market interest only.

The CUC-RFEI-12-001 packet will be e-mailed, upon request, to all interested offeror, by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

**One (1) original and Seven (7) copies** must be submitted by hand or courier in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFEI-12-001" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 16, 2011 (ChST). Late submission will not be considered.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on December 12, 2011 to Alan Fletcher, Deputy Director for Water/Wastewater via email alan.fletcher@cucgov.org; Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; and Ms. Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective respondents who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Acting Executive Director



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

### INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2011-012



This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

#### Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan and at its Field Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Monday, November 21, 2011, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village on Friday, December 9, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivision and other properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-ITB 2011-012**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time December 19, 2011**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 19, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 19, 2011**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **December 28, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m., local time, December 29, 2011**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on December 19, 2011**.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

For information, call the NMHC Office in Tinian at 433-9213 or the Central Office in Garapan Saipan, during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE  
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, Procurement & Supply



# First lady lights giant Christmas tree

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The holiday spirit came to life with much glow with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony Friday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center grounds in Susupe, marking the beginning of the Yuletide season in the CNMI.

First lady Josie P. Fitial, along with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, led the traditional lighting of the giant Christmas tree and the outdoor nativity set depicting the birth of Jesus Christ in the event organized by the First lady's Vision Foundation and the Women's Affairs Office.

"I hope that our islands' children and families can find the spirit of peace and renewed hope each time they pass by or visit these beautifully lit grounds," Josie P. Fitial said in her remarks.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

First lady Josie P. Fitial and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial lead the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center grounds last Friday, marking the beginning of holiday season in the CNMI.

As the holiday season is a "joyous" time for family and friends, Fitial encouraged the audience to remember this

Christmas is also for those who are less fortunate, those who are alone this holiday, and those who can't be home for the holidays "especially all our courageous men and women serving overseas."

"The greatest blessings of all are the ones that don't cost a thing: the comfort of spending time with loved ones, the freedom we enjoy, and the joy we feel upon giving something of ourselves," added Fitial.

Fitial, whose birthday coincided with the ceremony, said in an interview that it's in the face of a tough economy that the community should remember the true meaning of Christmas.

"It's when Jesus was born," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune*. "So let's love, have peace, and be always together. I just want everyone to love each other. No fighting; just be nice to each other.

That's my wish."

Fitial thanked all those who helped make possible the putting up of the giant Christmas tree and the nativity scene for

the holidays. They are director Arnold Seman, Lt. Pius Yaroitemal, Capt. Joe Pangelinan, staffers Carlo Evangelista and RB Camacho, and the Community Outreach of the Department of Corrections; Ting Jian Tang and Ramil of Kevin's Corp., Jun

Manlulu of Jems Corp., Angel Hocog and Piding Camacho of the Food Committee; Department of Public Works-Maintenance; Governor's office maintenance; Multi-Purpose staff; Chong Fitial, Jack Omar, and Remy and Danny Buniag.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Organizers of the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony last Friday, including inmates at the Department of Corrections, pose for a group photo at the foot of the outdoor nativity scene and the giant Christmas tree.

## Tan Siu Lin Foundation scholarship deadline on Wednesday

The Northern Marianas College would like to remind students that the deadline to apply for the scholarship offered by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation is Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently announced that it will be providing 10 students of the Northern Marianas College \$1,000 scholarships that can be applied to the Spring and/or Summer 2012 semes-

ters. The scholarship program aims to award five full-time students pursuing an Associate's in Applied Science degree in Hospitality Management, and five full-time students pursuing other degrees at NMC. In addition to hospitality management, the College offers degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and education.

"We are very proud to of-

fer this scholarship to help students in the CNMI pursue their education at the Northern Marianas College," said TSL Foundation president and chief of operations Jerry Tan. "We need to build our local workforce with skilled and knowledgeable individuals and this scholarship is one of the ways the Tan Siu Lin Foundation is advancing that mission."

The Tan Holdings Founda-

tion was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. These partners represent many different backgrounds and income levels. The main mission of the organization is to better serve the regions

in which they operate thus making the communities a better place to live.

"We would like to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their continued support of higher education in the CNMI," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart. "This scholarship will definitely help our students move toward accomplishing their educational and professional goals."

The scholarships are based on merit and will be awarded to the recipient on the basis

of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The essay and interview will also play a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

Applications and additional information are available for download on [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu) and for pick up at the NMC Financial Aid Office. For more information or inquiries, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 ext. 1526. (NMC)



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-003

### Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

**One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "RFP-12-003 - Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net); Ms. Mika Muna via email at [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org); Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at [venu@cucgov.net](mailto:venu@cucgov.net) and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at [ed.char@cucgov.org](mailto:ed.char@cucgov.org).

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-004

### SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

**One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-004 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net); Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org); and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email [wallon59@yahoo.com](mailto:wallon59@yahoo.com). CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director



## Nearly 300 take part in events promoting healthier lifestyle

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three big health events were merged for the first time Saturday in efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle in the Commonwealth.

The 5th Annual Great Marianas Smokeout, the 11th Annual Don't Be A Turkey Walk, and Diabetes Awareness Month celebrations held at the Oleai Sports Complex attracted close to 300 participants who took part in various activities as early as 5:30am.

"All partners are here to maximize resources and we're all together joining for one cause, which is to promote healthy living in the CNMI. It's a great success," event chair Velma Del Rosario of the Community Guidance Center said in an interview.

The event featured activities like the candle light vigil, the walk around the track field, food demonstrations, and free health screenings from Hardt Eye Clinic and Marianas Eye Institute. Uncle Ben's Studio provided entertainment to the participants.

Community partners like CGC, the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, Ayuda Network, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs also set up information booths that educated participants about their respective programs.

Bill Limes, Community Outreach Program coordinator, said they participate in the Great Marianas Smokeout every year.

"I encourage the public, especially the youth, to stop smoking to prevent them from getting cancer," he said.

Polly Omechelang of NMC-CREES, which is a member of the substance abuse and diabetes coalitions, said they regularly setup a booth at the event to promote their programs while supporting a good cause.

"As a coalition member, we want to educate the public about non-communicable diseases and encourage eating healthy," she said.

Del Rosario said the first 200 participants were given free T-shirts while others were given giveaways such as pamphlets, stickers, children's books, and toys.

At the event, Del Rosario disclosed that smokers were encouraged to hand over their cigarette packs and were informed about the negative effects of smoking tobacco and chewing. They were given gas coupons in return.

Del Rosario said the event targeted those who have smoked, are suffering from diabetes, or have high blood pressure to underscore that healthy living is "very, very important" for the prevention of non-communicable diseases.

She noted that there were many younger members of the community who participated in



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Division of Youth Services staffers led by community outreach program coordinator Bill Limes, left, pose for a group photo at their booth.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

the event.

"Kids we're actually walking around the track with their parents, which is a very, very beautiful sight. It's important to start them into the healthy habit while they're young because they'll continue on and most likely end up not smoking or eating healthy," Del Rosario told *Saipan Tribune*.

But their efforts to encourage a healthy lifestyle in the islands doesn't end there, said Del Rosario.

"This is our work," she said. "But it's not just our job—it's everybody's job. We need to join efforts and promote healthy lifestyles," she added.

Polly Omechelang, second from left, of NMC CREES is joined by other community partners and volunteers.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Event committee chair Velma Del Rosario, standing second from right, is flanked by other committee members on Saturday.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Caleb Dejillas who will be celebrating his birthday today. Happy, happy birthday my little munchkin. Love Mommy, Daddy, and the familia!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy second birthday to Jordan Ray Camacho Deleon Guerrero. We love you so much! Hugs and kisses from Mommy, Teet, and Nina Eggs!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Auntie Leng Agulto-Lizama. You mean so much to us and those around you. Your birthday should be a national holiday. Happy 50th birthday and God bless you always. In guaiya hao! Greetings from the family

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov 28, 2001

### Verizon, Citadel to close MTC sale early next year

Verizon Communications and a consortium of investors led by Citadel Holdings, Inc. are expected to officially close the sale of Micronesian Telecommunications Inc. in the first quarter of 2002. Ownership of MTC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Verizon Communications, will be transferred to the consortium of Citadel, Tan Holdings Corporation and other investors. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed. According to Verizon Group Vice President for International Asset Management John Doherty, the sale is contingent upon the approval by the Federal Communications Commission and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission on Saipan.

### Holiday's magic fail to lure tourists back

The holiday season's magic is not likely to work this time. Tourism industry players yesterday disclosed that the demand for airline seats and hotel accommodations has not picked up despite the inception of the holiday season. This, even as the sector noted a slight increase in visitor arrivals over the weekend - courtesy of Japan's Labor Appreciation Day—when the number of tourists jumped from a daily average of 200 to over a thousand. Soon after the weekend holiday in Japan was over, tourism sector officials disclosed that tourist arrivals from Japan went back to the below-200 level. This forced industry players to pull down prices of tour packages between the Northern Marianas and other destinations like Bali, Guam, Manila, Palau, Hong Kong, among others.

Nov. 28, 2003

### More federal screeners eyed

At least 12 personnel would be added to the Transportation Security Administration's pool of federal screeners on Saipan, depending on the result of their ongoing examination being administered by an employment firm contracted by the Department of Homeland Security. Once the new batch complete their three-phase examination, screeners at the Saipan International Airport would increase from 47 to 60, according to TSA-Saipan Customer Support and Quality Improvement Manager Viola R. Sablan. The new federal screeners could also be deployed to other airports in the Commonwealth. Sablan said between 12 to 14 screeners would be taken in after the employment firm finishes the evaluation of the enrollees, who were recruited during a recently held job fair at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

### Incentives mulled for environmental advocates

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero is drawing up a legislative proposal designed to reward individuals and agencies proactively involved in environment protection. The Saipan congressman has drafted a bill dubbed the CNMI Environmental Act of 2003, which he has passed on to various environment agencies for comment. The bill has yet to be introduced on the House floor. "It [bill] creates incentives and awards for individuals, organizations, institutions, and businesses who take proactive steps in protecting the environment. It also has a small component on energy conservation. So we'll be working with the Energy Division here. If they do these measures, they can get awards or incentives," the Precinct I representative explained.

Nov. 28, 2005

### 'MPLT expenses unreasonable, excessive'

For three fiscal years covering 2002 to 2004, the Marianas Public Land Trust spent more than half a million dollars in travel expenses and incurred administrative expenses that "are higher than they should be," according to a Nov. 15 interim report by the Office of Public Auditor. The MPLT is the government agency entrusted with the "prudent" management of funds from public land leases [collected by the Marianas Public Lands Authority]. In the report, Public Auditor Michael Sablan said that based on the records provided by MPLT, the Trust board members spent \$297,920 for compensation during the three-year period. It means that each board member, except for one who was appointed in mid 2004, received over \$50,000 in compensation during the period.



Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana  
Ofisinan I Gubietno  
Dipattamenton I Tano’ Publiku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for public purpose. The private property is described as EA 852-1-1, containing an area of 5,820 square meters, more or less, situated in As-Lito, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 099 D 22, containing an area of 5,820 square meters more or less, located in Navy Hill, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by Ms. Brenda Cabrera Manglona a resident of Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 14, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA’ATULAKAN TANO’ PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano’ Publiku guini ha na’i notisia i intension-na para u ma’atulaikan pumalu na tano’ publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hayi manentiresao na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henera siha munna’halom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma’atulaikan I tano’ publiku. Komu mas mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimanda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ para uma’chule I tano’ private para uson publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano’ komo EA 852-1-R1, kinensisiste i aria 5,820 na dinankulon tano, potlumenus mas, gaige giya As-Lito, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano’ publiku Lot 099 D 22, kinensisite i aria 5,820 square meters, potlumenus ma, gaige giya Navy Hill, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano’ si Sinora Brenda Cabrera Manglona, residente Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ siha machule’ gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano’ Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano’ Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi’i opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma’atulakan tano’ publiku antes osino gi dia Decembre 14, 2011 gi Depattamenton Tano’.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sangi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóoka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári EA 852-1-R1, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (5,820 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngáre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot 099 D 22, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew 5,820 lapel falúw ye, elo Marpi, Seipél.
- iii. Ms. Brenda Cabrera Manglona elollo , Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Tumwur 14, 2011, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana  
Ofisinan I Gubietno  
Dipattamenton I Tano’ Publiku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for public purpose. The private property is described as Lot No. 394, containing an area of 40,000 square meters, more or less, situated in San Roque, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 003 A 23, containing an area of 40,000 square meters more or less, located in Marpi, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by The Heirs of Fabiana Nekkai a resident of Tanapag, Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 14, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA’ATULAKAN TANO’ PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano’ Publiku guini ha na’i notisia i intension-na para u ma’atulaikan pumalu na tano’ publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hayi manentiresao na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henera siha munna’halom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma’atulaikan I tano’ publiku. Komu mas mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimanda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ para uma’chule I tano’ private para uson publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano’ komo Lot No. 394, kinensisiste i aria 40,000 na dinankulon tano, potlumenus mas, gaige giya San Roque, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano’ publiku Lot No. 003 A 23, kinensisite i aria 40,000 square meters, potlumenus ma, gaige giya Makpi, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano’ si The Hiers of Fabiana Nakkai, residenten Tanapag, Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ siha machule’ gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano’ Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano’ Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi’i opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma’atulakan tano’ publiku antes osino gi dia Decembre 14, 2011 gi Depattamenton Tano’.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sangi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóoka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári Lot 394, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (40,000 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngáre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot No. 003 A 23, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew 40,000 lapel falúw ye, elo Marpi, Seipél.
- iii. The Hiers of Fabiana Nekkai elollo Tanapag, Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Tumwur 14, 2011, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXI, Issue No. 282Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Mexico's war with itself

**M**exican President Felipe Calderon's most enduring legacy may well turn out to be the death toll from his country's bloody drug war. Since 2006, some 45,000 civilians have died, and the body count continues to rise. The homicide rate increased by more than 260 percent between 2007 and 2010. And a new report by Human Rights Watch indicates that drug cartels and organized crime aren't solely responsible for the bloodletting. The military, deployed to protect civilians, may have caused many of their deaths, according to the group's study.

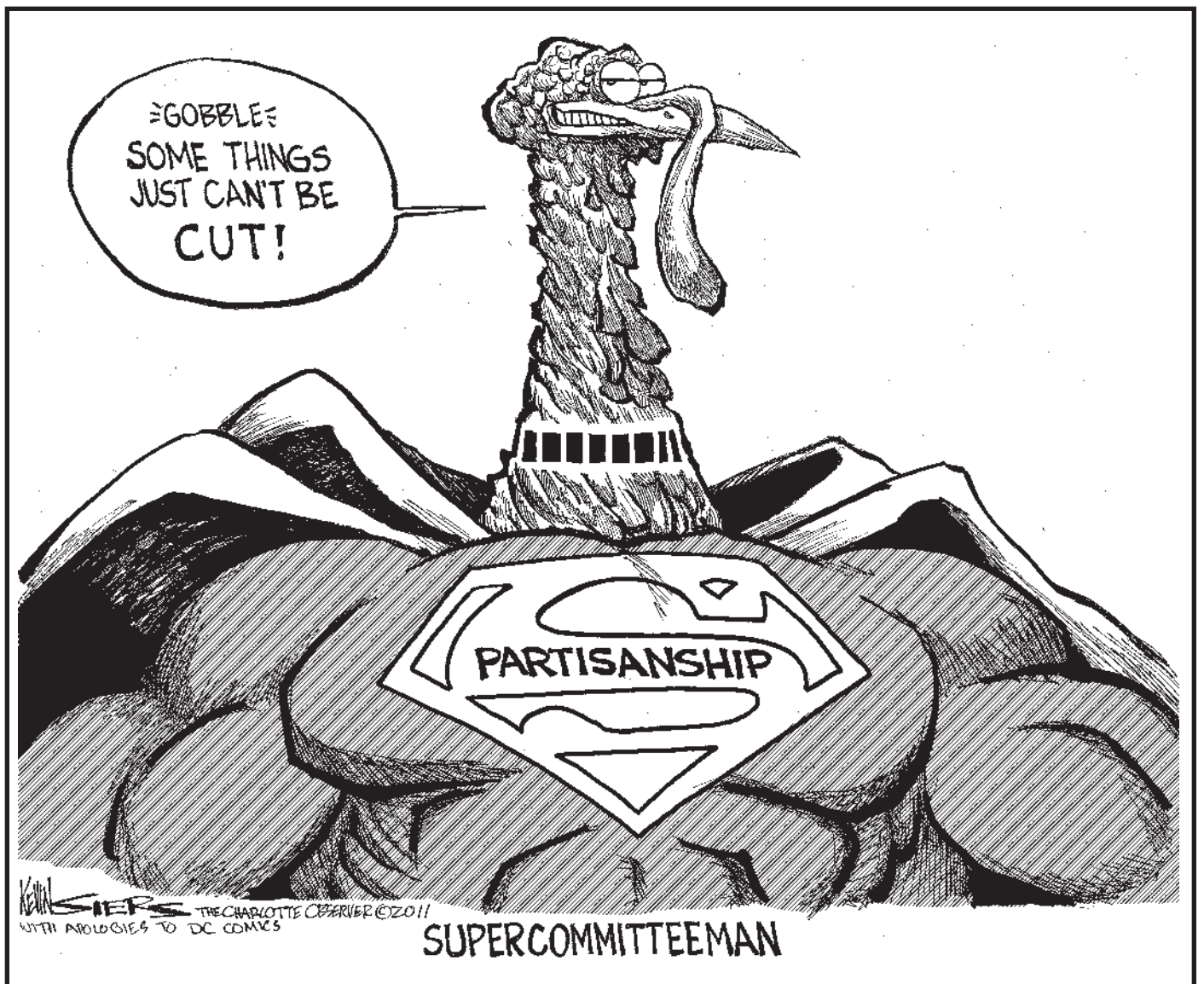
The report is just the latest reminder that Calderon's security strategy, including his decision to deploy more than 50,000 soldiers against the cartels, hasn't reduced violence, and may in fact be fueling it.

Mexico's troubles have no easy fix. Poverty, corruption and weak rule of law are all part of the problem. So are extrajudicial killings and other abuses by the government and the military, according to the report. If Calderon intends to push forward with his military strategy \_ and he shows no sign of changing course \_ then he ought to, at the very least, implement some safeguards to address the abuses taking place at the hands of authorities. Judicial reforms would be a good place to begin. His administration took a promising step forward earlier this year when it appointed Marisela Morales to serve as attorney general. A former prosecutor who had led a unit dedicated to fighting organized crime, she has since fired dozens of federal prosecutors and moved to clean up corruption in the office.

But much more remains to be done. Most of the constitutional reforms approved on paper in 2008 remain on paper. That includes a call to move away from an "inquisitorial" legal system to an "adversarial" model in which defendants and victims can challenge evidence in open court. And calls for overhauling investigations of alleged human rights abuses have gone unanswered. Currently, only cases of torture, rape and enforced disappearance are handled by civilian prosecutors. Military investigators oversee all other prosecutions of abuse, including those involving extrajudicial killings. That has led to concern that investigations of soldiers accused of shooting civilians won't be impartial and will lack accountability.

The United States, which has pledged more than \$1.6 billion since 2007 to assist Mexico in fighting drug cartels and criminal gangs, can help. The Obama administration ought to urge Calderon to focus on strengthening Mexico's judicial system and encourage his government to adopt reforms.

(c)2011 the Los Angeles Times



## What has happened to our upward mobility?

**W**e are told that tourism is our major industry. But where we fit into this picture? How many of us are employed in the tourist industry? And the few of us that are, is there any chance for getting higher paying jobs with more responsibility? Aren't most of the employees from the respective countries that the tourists come from? And aren't the desk clerks mostly nonresident workers? Where do we fit in? What opportunity for upward mobility do we have?

Isn't our hospital with its branches on Tinian and Rota, staffed mainly with U.S. doctors? Aren't the nursing staff and aides staffed almost by nonresident people? Are we encouraging our youth to enter the medical profession knowing that it is a high paying and highly respected field? Where do we fit in? What opportunity for upward mobility do we have?

Isn't the government the major employer of us? Don't most of us still desire to work for the government? In reality isn't it the largest employer of local workers? Don't we still cling to the carrot at the end of the road as our most cherished goal—the pension that we expect to receive at the end of our work span? What opportunity for upward mobility do we have?

How many grocery stores, beauty and barber shops, auto repair shops, air-conditioning companies, restaurants, clothing, and other types of stores plus the multitude of other small businesses do we own? Where do we fit in? What opportunity for upward mobility do we have?

Why have we given away the vast majority of our small businesses to outsiders while we stand in line at the Food Stamp Office crying that there are no jobs? Of course there are no jobs. We have allowed other people to take over the economic life of our community. What foreign investments are we a shareholder in? Where do we fit in? What opportunity for upward mobility do we have?

Do we realize what we have done with our socio-economic life? Do we ever wonder why our children, after graduating from college, do not want to return to work and live here?

Truthfully speaking, living on Saipan is a sheer delight with all its beauty, laidback style and friendly people. I love living here. But trying to work here is a nightmare for many of us. What has happened to the American Dream that all of us should have an opportunity to improve our socio-economic life? What opportunity for upward mobility do we have?

Briefly put, upward mobility is the chance to improve ourselves both in jobs of responsibility and with higher salaries. The American Dream, like the rest of our economy, has become bifurcated. That is, split into two parts—the haves and the have nots! This disparity is becoming more and more obvious as the food stamp line

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*



lengthens and becomes more congested. To keep up with this, the monthly allotment for food stamps has just been raised to over \$1 million per month!

Yet we have thousands of nonresident workers working full-time jobs which we should be doing. Yet we have hundreds of alien store owners controlling our economy where daily we spent thousands of our dollars to buy our basic necessities. Where do we fit in? What opportunity for upward mobility do we have?

A question to those of us working. Do we earn more than our parents did? Do we live as comfortably as they did? Do we compare our lives to how they lived and we, as children, in their homes? Or do we compare ourselves to the neighbors' standard of living?

I came across this quote recently in a *Time Magazine*: "Behavioral economics tells us that our sense of well-being is tied not to the past but to how we are doing compared with our peers. Relative mobility matters."

Where do we fit in?

Now that we are in a major labor transition, isn't it time we consider where we are in our socio-economic level? Slowly and over the years we have denigrated ourselves and sold off our future to foreigners who now control our economy. We are compelled to go to them for our daily necessities and for our entertainment as well.

We are being coerced to accept casinos as a solution to our economic depression. Will we be the janitors and clerks in the casinos? Where do we fit in? What opportunity for upward mobility will we have?

The best hope we have in overcoming the plight we find ourselves in is to improve our personal education. Education is the major factor which allows us upward mobility. Upward mobility means obtaining better paying jobs requiring skills or trades. With this must be coupled the determination that we want the responsibility that goes with the job.

At times some of us must wonder exactly what is Tony trying to tell us? Weekly he embarks on sermons about what we should do

See **MOBILITY** on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Diskalenta Na Kinalamten

Estaba un' palaoan gi entalu' filan estante gi un' tenda guine gi alacha. Sige ha akompara presiun fektus siha. Ha atan hulu' ya ilegña, "Magpu" i nobena, Iku. Mas kahulu' i presiun nesessidat familia siha ya sige ha' man-ma'aña hit ni surcharge yan asuterity". Mamahlauyu' sa' sumasaunauyu' umesalau "let it be". Pues hu ñañon i prohima na "tana fan sala-kumba" i manpairen Heksu' I Deni" gi otru sakan. Konfotme.

Mientras ha a'ayeg mas fektus, ilegña, "Ke lau hafa na mampos bahu kinalamten tano'ta Iku na biahe? Hafa adai bidan niniha i man-ma'gasta na no siakassu siha nu i baban linala' i publiku lau siha timuneru?"

Ineppe as Magoo, "Man-yayas ya ni siha ti matuñgu' hafa para umachogue". Ginen fuetsau na pinadese, mas ke dos mit na natibu dumiñgu i tanu'. Taya' alibiu guine para disente na linala' familia. Tatnai sisida este siha na pinadese lau tano'ta mismu mafa' sasala-guan natibu. De dios mihu!

Humanau un abugau mamokat gi fihon pantalan Susupe. 'Nai dumeskansa, man-arima i lalahita ya sige masañgan dineskonten-tun niha nu i gobienu. Ilegña i prohimo, "Ti hu tuñgu' na taiguine minigaiña ti gumoflame i maga'lahe".

Buente chagu' i hegsu' i Deni na makat hoñga i kabales na senti-menton publiku. Lau 'an mattu otru sakan na eleksion, un' ratutu ha' anog, klaru sin ditension, hafa sentimentoña i mampos mamadedese na publiku. Ti u lache este ya sumen libianu machalegua'.

Gi mapos na Huebes (Thanksgivig Day) hunae' gi hechuran tinayuyothu agradesimientu i dos sinantusan na sainahu pot todú sakrifision niha pot hame. Ha tampe si nanahu pinadesen mame gi un' didog na pineble ni sabanas hinimide, pinasensia yan mañan silensiu. Ti umuguñ ni unabes lau motmut tinayuyotña para bai'n fan gai esperansa na i haane u homhum antes de manana.

Hu e'ekuñgog dinaña' estudianten NMC ni man-manae' asuntu para u prepara para presentasion. I liñguahen, i kinemprenden niha yan eskalera 'nai man-a'adiñgan sumen na'magodai sa' makom-prende i asuntu. Edukau na konbetsasion gi entre siha. Klaru na todú fina' koyentura maguadog hulu ginen tinaitai niha siha leblo yan materiat.

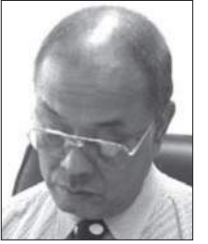
Hafa na man-siña este siha na estuante "edukau" konbetsa-sion niha? Sa' man-eskuekuela ya guaha dañkulu na animu pot para umakomprende leksion niha. Sumen namagof ya ginen este na gumuaha konfiansaghu na esta man-mamamaila' i ta eduduka na famaguonta para u chahlau i talen responsablidad ginen i man-ma'gasta ni mampos man-fatigau.

I tautauta ti man-seha fumatta ginen korason niha i sensian tra-dision Katoliku. Maseha man-mamatmos gi halom didog na fache' chinatsaga, ti mahña man-mamahan sentadan pabu gi mapos na semana. Metgot na sensian kilisyanu i para u mana' guaha dinaña familia ni matutuhon finenina gi tinayuyot. Sumen na' banidosu na sensian komunida.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.*



Guaha mamaisen hafa tanu' gobienu yan publiku. Todú tanu' guine ni ti praiet pues tanu' publiku. Todú i ha chule' i gobienu para uson publiku, debi dispues u basiha ennau na tanu' guatu gi depattamentun tanu' (DPL). I mamaneha, usu yan disposision tanu' publiku gaige ennau na atoridat konstitusion gi depattamentun tanu'. Tai atoridat i gobienu guine na patte. Uson tanu publiku mas ke siñku hektarias, debi u inina yan inaprueba nu i lehislatura. Pues i priniponen ma-usan tanu' sankatan siha na islas, debi u falofan ya u maina nu i lehislatura.

Yangin hayumu hosguan pot suette i otru, pues ennau na sensiamu para un' linimus gi halom tasen minala'et. Memegaiña gi ha'animu lastima sa' mampos hau champada 'nai adumidide' maliñgu dig-nomu yan sensian hinimide. Fanayuyot ya un' manae' motmut mina'agim. Kontodu siempre siñientemu kulan mana' suha trosun lulog ni hagas humogse hau.

## Afghanistan deserves to chart its future without cross-border meddling

At the latest international conference on Afghanistan, held this month in Istanbul, participants affirmed their resolve to "combat the financing, harboring, training and equipping" of terrorism. The words were directed largely at Pakistan and what is increasingly recognized as that country's deliberate and long-standing policy of using violent extremism to advance its security interests.

Yet now the U.S. government seems poised to reward this policy by asking its architects, the Pakistani military and its intelligence agency, to broker Afghanistan peace negotiations with the very insurgents they fostered.

For much of the past decade, I have lived in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where I was able to observe firsthand the activities of the Pakistani military in support of the resurgent Taliban. I learned from the Kandahar chief of police about "retired" Pakistani military intelligence (ISI) officers who had reopened training camps along the barren and wind-swept border between the two countries. I provided the U.S. Embassy with the ISI-issued license plate number on the car used by a senior Taliban commander.

Numerous friends of mine, many of them former refugees who frequently traveled to Pakistan, described the impunity with which former Taliban were allowed to meet and organize in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan province. Another friend who lived just over the Pakistani border wanted me to come witness ISI officers distribute motorcycles at a religious school in his neighborhood. They then instructed the students to ride the motorcycles across the border and swell the Taliban's ranks in Afghanistan. These personal observations are buttressed by a growing body of classified and unclassified documentation.

Because the government of Pakistan has assisted in other aspects of the U.S. fight against terrorism, U.S. officials have tended to neglect the role Pakistan is also playing in building up the very insurgency it is supposedly helping us fight. My Afghan friends cannot understand our willful blindness.

A turning point came on Sept. 14, when members of the ISI-supported Haqqani network attacked the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. Evidence of the Haqqani network's responsibility for this attack enraged U.S. officials. It was one thing, their response seemed to imply, for Pakistan to send its proxies to fight our soldiers, but another for a Pakistani-supported group to attack the symbolic, sovereign territory represented by an embassy. That crossed a line.

In the wake of the embassy attack, the U.S. focused intensively on the Haqqani network's activities and its ISI ties. But Pakistan's policy of backing militants is not limited to the Haqqani network. The list of extremist groups supported by the Pakistani military is long. And the support is not new. In fact, the U.S. came close to designating Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism in 1993, a year before the ISI's protege, the Taliban, launched a major offensive in Afghanistan.

So why has Pakistan maintained this consistent—and risky—embrace of violent extremism? Regarding Afghanistan, the purpose of sponsoring militant groups has been to obtain proxy control of as

much of the country as possible—as a way for Pakistan to punch above its weight internationally. That goal was largely achieved by 1995, when with ISI help, the Taliban governed a growing chunk of Afghanistan from its stronghold in Kandahar.

Ever since the United States toppled that government in 2001, the ISI has been surreptitiously trying to reinstate it. But this time, the strategy isn't to achieve a military victory, as it was in the '90s. Such a goal—against NATO, the most powerful military alliance on Earth—would be laughable. This time, the strategy has been to wear down the international and Afghan militaries, and to wear down the Afghan people in areas where the insurgency is concentrated, so that Washington and Kabul will see no alternative but to negotiate with the insurgents—and to let Pakistan determine which insurgents will enter the talks and what terms they'll accept.

U.S. officials—and many antiwar Americans—are walking right into this trap. In a policy now called "talk, fight, build," the U.S. government is actually asking the ISI to do precisely what it wants to do: usher its favorite insurgent leaders to the negotiating table.

"A political outcome," a.k.a. talks, in the words of former Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, "is the way most wars end." The question is, talks with whom?

The notion that there are three separate entities in this equation—the government of Afghanistan, the government of Pakistan and the insurgents—has been revealed as a fallacy. The insurgents are an instrument of the government of Pakistan.

So let's stop pretending. The talks the U.S. government should

By **SARAH CHAYES**

Los Angeles Times

*Sarah Chayes has served as a senior adviser to the U.S. military on Afghanistan and Pakistan, among other strategic issues. She is the author of "The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban." She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*



be facilitating are between two sovereign nations, Afghanistan and Pakistan. If the government of Pakistan has concerns or aspirations regarding its neighbor, it should address them directly, through facilitated negotiations. It should spell out its concerns through this process, and the U.S. should help guarantee that the legitimate ones are properly addressed in a binding treaty. But turning your neighbor into a client state is not a legitimate aspiration and should not be facilitated.

A second set of talks could address the well-founded grievances almost all Afghans, insurgents included, have against their government. But that process should involve Afghans alone. No outside power, least of all Pakistan, should interfere.

Such a two-track approach might still save Afghanistan. And it would at least not reward Islamabad for its long-standing policy of financing, harboring, training, equipping and often directing violent extremists.

## MOBILITY

From Page 10

with our lives. This is a fair question which I will try to explain.

As I drive around our beautiful island and see dilapidated homes which once were well maintained, I feel a ting of sadness. As I drive past all the closed shops with signs pleading "For Rent," I wonder what happened and why. As I past the Food Stamp Office every end of the month and witness the long lines of healthy people waiting for food stamps, I wonder why? How have we become reduced to this level?

Unfortunately too many of us fail to realize that the CNMI is not the one of our youth. Modern technology, our association with the United States, our flood of tourists, our daily exposure to the world—all have dramatically changed our lives. Yet many of us try to cling to the past. As a result our thinking has become warped. When will we wake up and seize the day?

Many of us fail to realize that the CNMI will become economically strong only when we are willing to seek upward mobility. We must educate ourselves and become the business community instead of outsiders. True economic growth will come from us on the bottom. The best the government can do is to assist, but it does

not create a prosperous economic society.

Yet, I feel an air of optimism and hope in all of this. I see opportunity after opportunity lying fallow with few takers. A new air cargo airline is about to begin hauling fruits and vegetables grown in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to Guam. But it will need all of us working to produce the products. A new animal slaughterhouse is under construction complete with USDA approval. But it will require all of us to raise the animals. These are only two of the many possible opportunities awaiting all of us. There are more chances for upward mobility. Look for the acres of diamonds under our feet!

Many of are satisfied with our status in life, our income and are very happy as we are. To those of us in this situation, I salute you. You have found happiness. But to the rest of us who are unhappy and are searching, there is hope if we will only reach out and seek it.

Again, as I have mentioned before, if any of us is seeking upward mobility and is willing to put in the time and effort to achieve it, my hand is out to you. Please visit me at the NMTI office. The number is 235-8864. Let's plan together. Let's get off our butts' (excuses) and do it!

In closing, remember to SMILE! It is contagious and makes you feel great! Have a happy week.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼80

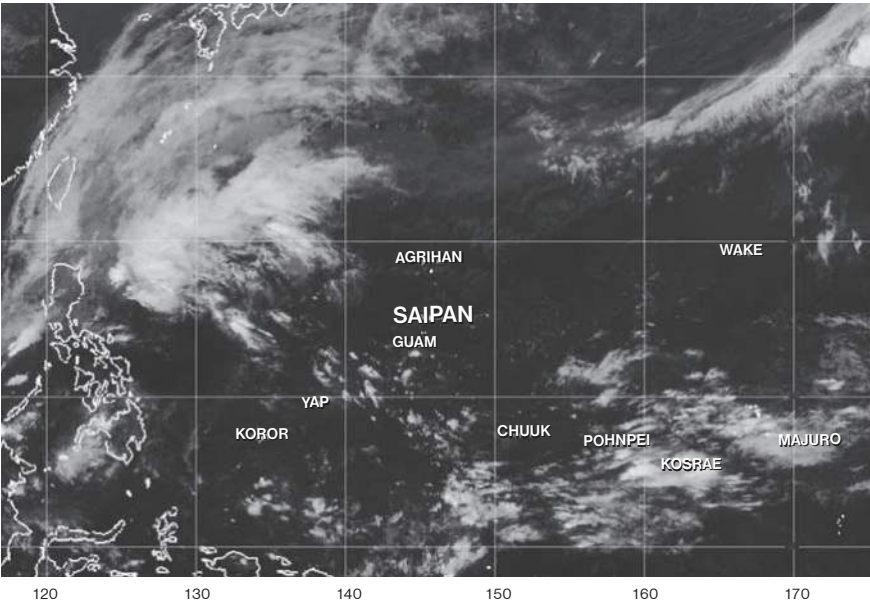
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68 ▼63
Beijing	Ice	▲37 ▼25
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼72
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81 ▼72
London	Rain	▲54 ▼44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90 ▼76
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼60
Miami	Showers	▲74 ▼58
New York	Showers	▲54 ▼40
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼53
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲52 ▼43
Pusan	Showers	▲64 ▼54
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼43
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼36
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼51
Seoul	Showers	▲61 ▼44
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼51
Washington, DC	Showers	▲53 ▼39

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line undulates southwestward from 25N156E to 22N138E to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary west of 140E. Isolated thunderstorms are found along the shear line. A surface trough stretches northward from 1N149E to 9N148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found southwest of Chuuk or south of a line from 1N144E to 6N147E to 6N150E to 2N152E. An upper-level low is centered near 13N157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present north of Pohnpei between 9N and 14N0 from 154E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 250 miles of a line from 3N156E to 6N166E to 7N174E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:05 AM	8:45 PM
Tuesday	9:56 AM	9:43 PM
Wednesday	10:42 AM	10:36 PM
Thursday	11:24 AM	11:27 PM
Friday	12:03 PM	

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan  
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5	C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5	C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05070	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP	C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6	C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6	C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT	C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM	C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am	1, 5 via GUM	C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am	3, 6 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05076/179	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# NMC 2011 Start Smart Seminar



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Attorney Jack Torres, standing far left, answering student questions on college experience during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" portion of the Northern Marianas College's 2011 Start Smart Seminar outside the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High school seniors posing for a photo with NMC SROTC cadet Roland Dowai, fourth from left, at the end of the seminar.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School seniors registering for Northern Marianas College's 2011 Start Smart Seminar outside the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seniors being cheered while enjoying a sing-off during an icebreaker hosted by Office of Student Activities and Leadership Administrative Manager L.J. Castro.



Distinguished community members being recognized on stage before proceeding to the various tables to address student questions about college during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the event. The more than 30 honored guests included doctors, attorneys, business leaders, educators, government officials, and other community leaders.

NMC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart addressing high school seniors on the advantages of attending NMC during the "Inspirational Remarks" portion of the seminar.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Chad Lowe, center, sharing a first-hand account of his college experience in response to student questions on the topic during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the event.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seniors working together to untangle themselves while enjoying an icebreaker during the "Team Building Exercise" portion of the seminar.



## Business

## How much crazier can Black Friday get?

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Pepper-sprayed customers, smash-and-grab looters and bloody scenes in the shopping aisles. How did Black Friday devolve into this?

As reports of shopping-related violence rolled in this week from Los Angeles to New York, experts say a volatile mix of desperate retailers and cutthroat marketing has hyped the traditional post-Thanksgiving sales to increasingly frenzied levels. With stores opening earlier, bargain-obsessed shoppers often are sleep-deprived and short-tempered. Arriving in darkness, they also find themselves vulnerable to savvy parking-lot muggers.

Add in the online-coupon phenomenon, which feeds the psychological hunger for finding impossible bargains, and you've got a recipe for trouble, said Theresa Williams, a marketing professor at Indiana University.

"These are people who should know better and have enough stuff already," Williams said. "What's going to be next year, everybody getting Tasered?"

Across the country on Thursday and Friday, there were signs that tensions had ratcheted up a notch or two, with violence resulting in several instances.

A woman turned herself in to police after allegedly pepper-spraying 20 other customers at a Los Angeles-area Walmart on Thursday in what investigators said was an attempt to get at a crate of Xbox video game consoles. In Kinston, N.C., a security guard also pepper-sprayed customers seeking electronics before the start of a midnight sale.

In New York, crowds reportedly looted a clothing store in Soho. At a Walmart near Phoenix, a man was bloodied while being subdued by police officer on suspicion of shoplifting a video game. There was a shooting outside a store in San



In this Friday, Nov. 25, 2011, photo, shoppers stop to look at a display while shopping at Dadeland Mall, in Miami. AP

Leandro, Calif., shots fired at a mall in Fayetteville, N.C. and a stabbing outside a store in Sacramento, N.Y.

"The difference this year is that instead of a nice sweater you need a bullet proof vest and goggles," said Betty Thomas, 52, who was shopping Saturday with her sisters and a niece at Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh, N.C.

The wave of violence revived memories of the 2008 Black Friday stampede that killed an employee and put a pregnant woman in the hospital at a Walmart on New York's Long Island. Walmart spokesman Greg Ros-siter said Black Friday 2011 was safer at most of its nearly 4,000 U.S. stores despite "a few un-

## Black Friday sales up 7 pct; retailers look ahead

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The holiday shopping season got off to a strong start on Black Friday, with retail sales up 7 percent over last year, according to the most recent survey. Now stores just have to keep buyers coming back without the promise of door-buster savings.

Buyers spent \$11.4 billion at retail stores and malls, up nearly \$1 billion from last year, according to a Saturday report from ShopperTrak. It was the largest amount ever spent on the day that marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season, and the biggest year-over-year increase since 2007. Chicago-based ShopperTrak gathers data from 25,000 outlets across the U.S., including individual stores and shopping centers.

The Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. broke its Black Friday record for shoppers, thanks to a decision to open at midnight for the first time. Around 210,000 visitors came to the mall on Friday, up from 200,000 last year, according to mall spokeswoman Bridget Jewell.

Online shopping was strong as well, with a 24.3 percent increase in online spending on Black Friday, according to IBM, which tracks sales at 500 online retailers.

Bill Martin, who founded ShopperTrak, said he was surprised by the strong showing. He had expected the weak economy to dent consumer confidence and keep more shoppers out of the stores, or at least from spending much. Instead, he said, they responded to a blanket of promotions,

from 60- and 70-percent off deals to door-buster savings on electronics.

"I'm pleased to see it. You can't have a great season without having a good Black Friday," Martin told The Associated Press in an interview.

Sales were also up 4 percent each in the two weeks leading up to Black Friday, as retailers started their promotions earlier than usual or extended their hours.

Still, he suspects things will quiet down this weekend, as promotions end and the buying frenzy subsides. ShopperTrak is expecting holiday sales to be up 3.3 percent this season. Retailers generally rely on sales between Thanksgiving and Christmas to make up 20 percent of their annual take.

There weren't many shoppers at Pioneer Place Mall in

fortunate incidents."

Black Friday—named that because it puts retailers "in the black"—has become more intense as companies compete for customers in a weak economy, said Jacob Jacoby, an expert on consumer behavior at New York University.

The idea of luring in customers with a few "doorbuster" deals has long been a staple of the post-Thanksgiving sales. But now stores are opening earlier, and those deals are getting more extreme, he said.

"There's an awful lot of psychology going on here," Jacoby said. "There's the notion of scarcity—when something's scarce it's more valued. And a resource that can be very scarce is time: If you don't get there in time, it's going to be gone."

There's also a new factor, Williams said: the rise of coupon websites like Groupon and LivingSocial, the online equivalents of doorbusters that usually deliver a single, one-day offer with savings of up to 80 percent on museum tickets, photo portraits, yoga classes and the like.

Portland, Ore., on Saturday.

"This is great, I'm glad I waited," said MaryJane Danan, who drove two hours from Corvallis, Ore., to go shopping with her teenage daughters. She stayed home on Black Friday because she thought the crowds would be huge. But she was surprised by how few people were out Saturday.

At Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh, N.C., Mary Aker was forced to use valet parking Friday because she couldn't find a parking spot. But on Saturday, the pace had let up a little, so she and her husband came back to do some more shopping.

Aker, 58, a retired librarian, said she's spending about as much as she usually does for Christmas. But she's asking people what they want ahead of time to make sure everyone is happy.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Spanish savings bank directors suspected of fraud

**MADRID (AP)**—A Spanish savings bank has fired two directors and is investigating two former executives for allegedly syphoning off euro20 million (\$26.5 million) into secret pension funds, the bank said Saturday. The board of directors of Caixa Penedes bank had "required the departure" of its president, Ricard Pages, and director general Manuel Troyano. It said both men had agreed to leave, the bank said in a statement. The decision comes after state prosecutor for the northeastern region of Catalonia, Teresa Compte, said her office was investigating all four on suspicion of involvement in illegal activity.

## Filipino police arrest 4 suspected AT&amp;T hackers

Four people have been arrested in the Philippines for allegedly hacking into AT&T customers' phones as part of a plan to funnel money to a Saudi-based terror group, according to police. The Philippine Criminal Investigation and Detection Group said it worked with the FBI to arrest the suspects last week. The hackers, according to investigators, worked for a group that helped finance a deadly 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, India. AT&T's systems weren't compromised but some of its customers were targeted, spokeswoman Jan Rasmussen said Saturday. AT&T cooperated in the investigation with the FBI, she said. (AP)

## If you raise the price, they'll still come

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The way Americans are chomping Big Macs, lacing up pricey sneakers and gulping peppermint mochas in this economy, you'd think they're taking advantage of big holiday discounts.

The truth is they're paying more.

McDonald's, Nike, Starbucks and other companies initially worried that customers would run the other way when they started raising prices to offset their higher costs for ingredients, fuel and packaging. But so far, cash-

strapped Americans largely have swallowed the price spikes. And they're continuing to do so during this holiday shopping season.

On a recent weekday, five full floors of shoppers in a Nike store in New York didn't seem to mind paying more for their favorite kicks, including the almost \$200 sneakers named for NBA star LeBron James. At a McDonald's across town, people munched on Big Macs and fries that cost a dime or two more than last year. Customers also piled into a Starbucks down the street, where

cappuccinos and many other specialty drinks now top \$5.

Timothy and Katrin Sullivan, a San Diego couple, estimate that together they spend about \$100 a month on skinny caramel macchiatos and pumpkin spice lattes at Starbucks, where prices on some drinks have risen in some regions this year. As parents of five children, they worry about the economy and have cut back on travel and ball games, but so far their morning cup of joe has survived the chopping block despite the ris-

ing price.

"It's cheaper than therapy," says Katrin Sullivan, 39.

The prices Americans pay for food, travel and other things have steadily risen this year, according to government data. Prices went up 3.5 percent in October compared with the same month a year ago. At the same time, every month for the past year except one, spending grew 2 percent or more compared with the same month a year ago. That's given retailers some cautious optimism as they try to gauge just how much more consumers are willing to pay.



# Nation

## NASA launches super-size rover to Mars: 'Go, Go!'

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** (AP)—A rover of "monster truck" proportions zoomed toward Mars on an 8 1/2-month, 354 million-mile journey Saturday, the biggest, best equipped robot ever sent to explore another planet.

NASA's six-wheeled, one-armed wonder, Curiosity, will reach Mars next summer and use its jackhammer drill, rock-zapping laser machine and other devices to search for evidence that Earth's next-door neighbor might once have been home to the teeniest forms of life.

More than 13,000 invited guests jammed the Kennedy Space Center on Saturday morning to witness NASA's first launch to Mars in four years, and the first flight of a Martian rover in eight years.

Mars fever gripped the crowd.

NASA astrobiologist Pan Conrad, whose carbon compound-seeking instrument is on the rover, wore a bright blue, short-sleeve blouse emblazoned with rockets, planets and the words, "Next stop Mars!" She jumped, cheered and snapped pictures as the Atlas V rocket blasted off. So did Los Alamos National Laboratory's Roger Wiens, a planetary scientist in charge of Curiosity's laser blaster, called ChemCam.

Surrounded by 50 U.S. and French members of his team, Wiens shouted "Go, Go, Go!" as the rocket soared into a cloudy sky. "It was beautiful," he later observed, just as NASA declared the launch a full success.

A few miles away at the space center's visitor complex, Lego teamed up with NASA for a toy spacecraft-build-

### As deadline looms, Occupy LA says they'll stay

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Despite a fast-approaching deadline set by the mayor and police chief, very few of the anti-Wall Street protesters from Occupy Los Angeles had begun breaking down their tents Saturday on the City Hall lawn—and most said they didn't intend to.

The Occupy LA encampment was abuzz with activity, but nearly all of it was aimed at how to deal with authorities come Monday's 12:01 a.m. deadline.

Some handed out signs mocked up to look like the city's notices to vacate, advertising a Monday morning "eviction block party."

Dozens attended a teach-in on resistance tactics, including how stay safe in the face of rubber bullets, tear gas canisters and pepper spray.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced Friday that despite his sympathy for the protesters' cause, it was time for the camp of nearly 500 tents to leave for the sake of public health and safety.

The mayor said the movement is at a "crossroads," and it must "move from holding a particular patch of

park to spreading the message of economic justice."

But occupiers did not intend to give up their patch of park too easily. Will Picard, who sat Saturday in a tent amid his artwork with a "notice of eviction" sign posted outside, said the main organizers and most occupiers he knows intend to stay.

"Their plan is to resist the closure of this encampment and if that means getting arrested so be it," Picard said. "I think they just want to make the police tear it down rather than tear it down themselves."

But some agreed with the mayor that the protest had run its course.

"I'm going," said Luke Hagerman, who sat looking sad and resigned in the tent he's stayed in for a month. "I wish we could have got more done."

Villaraigosa expressed pride that Los Angeles has lacked the tension, confrontation and violence seen at similar protests in other cities. But that peace was likely to get its biggest test on Monday.

Police gave few specifics about what tactics they would use for those who had no intention of leaving.

### Curiosity on Mars

*Curiosity will be the fourth rover to roam Mars, and the largest. Carrying a much heavier payload than previous rovers will require a rocket-powered descent onto Mars' surface. Curiosity's primary mission will be to analyze rock and soil to determine Mars' past or present potential to support microbial life.*

#### The Rover

**ChemCam** Uses a laser to vaporize rock layers and soil up to 23 ft. (7 m) away

**MastCam** Makes high-resolution color images of the surroundings

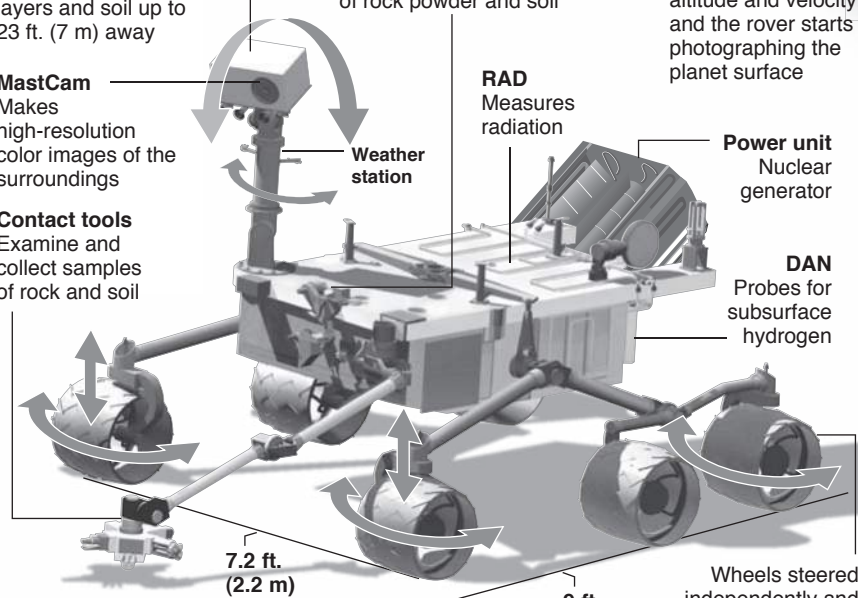
**Contact tools** Examine and collect samples of rock and soil

**SAM and CheMin** Check composition of rock powder and soil

**RAD** Measures radiation

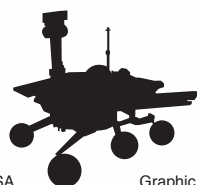
**Power unit** Nuclear generator

**DAN** Probes for subsurface hydrogen



**Size comparison**

**Sojourner**  
Mission 1996-97  
Weight 25 lb. (11 kg)



**Mars Exploration Rovers**  
Mission 2003 to present  
Weight 384 lb. (174 kg)

Source: Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech, NASA

Graphic: Julie Sheer, Raoul Ranao, Los Angeles Times

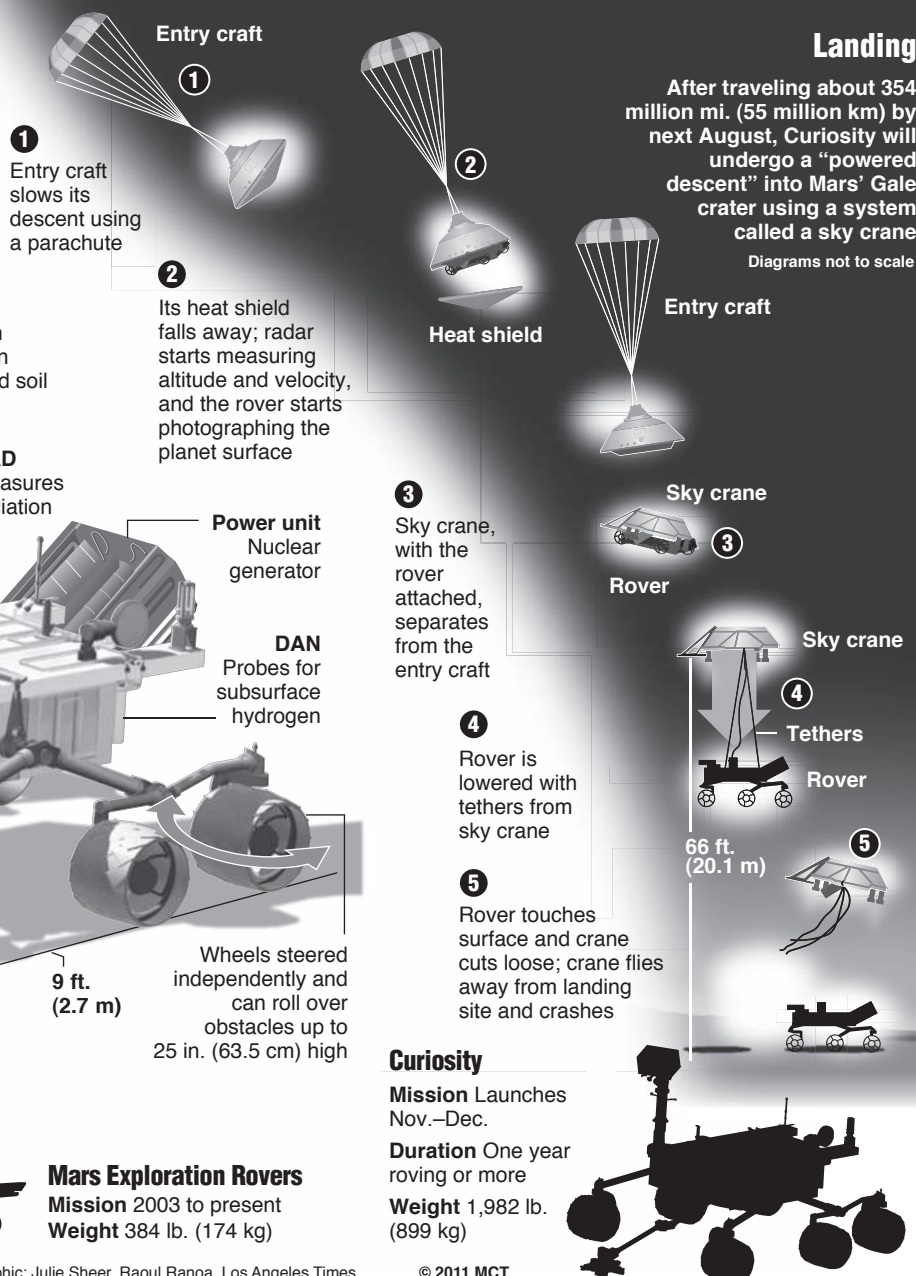
#### Curiosity

**Mission** Launches Nov.-Dec.

**Duration** One year roving or more

**Weight** 1,982 lb. (899 kg)

© 2011 MCT



Curiosity's 7-foot arm has a jackhammer on the end to drill into the Martian red rock, and the 7-foot mast on the rover is topped with high-definition and laser cameras.

With Mars the ultimate goal for astronauts, NASA will use Curiosity to measure radiation at the red planet. The rover also has a weather station on board that will provide temperature, wind and humidity readings; a computer software app with daily weather updates is planned.

No previous Martian rover has been so sophisticated.

The world has launched more than three dozen missions to the ever-alluring Mars, which is more like Earth than the other solar-system planets. Yet fewer than half those quests have succeeded.

Just two weeks ago, a Russian spacecraft ended up stuck in orbit around Earth, rather than en route to the Martian moon Phobos.

"Mars really is the Bermuda Triangle of the solar system," said NASA's Colleen Hartman, assistant associate administrator for science. "It's the death planet, and the United States of America is the only nation in the world that has ever landed and driven robotic explorers on the surface of Mars, and now we're set to do it again."

Curiosity's arrival next August will be particularly hair-raising.

In a spacecraft first, the rover will be lowered onto the Martian surface via a jet pack and tether system similar to the sky cranes used to lower heavy equipment into remote areas on Earth.

Curiosity is too heavy to use air bags like its much smaller predecessors, Spirit and Opportunity, did in 2004. Besides, this new way should provide for a more accurate landing.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### FAA: 4 dead in Chicago-area plane crash

**CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill.** (AP)—Authorities say four people are dead after a small plane crashed into a field near the northwestern Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake. Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham (EYE'-sham) Cory says the crash happened about 10:30 a.m. Saturday in unincorporated McHenry County. All four people on board were killed. Cory says the plane was operating by so-called "visual flight rules," meaning the pilot looked out the window to see where he was headed. The plane was not in touch with air traffic control. Conditions in the area have been overcast and rainy.

#### Body ID'd as Ohio man who answered Craigslist ad

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** (AP)—A body found in a shallow grave in northeast Ohio was identified Saturday as that of a missing man whose father said answered a Craigslist ad similar to one police say was used in a deadly robbery

scheme. The Summit County Medical Examiner's Office identified the man as Timothy Kern, 47, of Massillon. It said Kern died of gunshot wounds to the head. Kern's father, Jack Kern, said previously that his son answered an ad for a farmhand similar to the phony ad that authorities say led to the shooting death of Norfolk, Va., resident David Pauley, 51. Pauley's body was found in a shallow grave in Noble County.

The primary goal of the \$2.5 billion mission is to see whether cold, dry, barren Mars might have been hospitable for microbial life once upon a time—or might even still be conducive to life now. No actual life detectors are on board; rather, the instruments will hunt for organic compounds.

#### Police: Utah man viewed child porn on Mass. flight

**BOSTON** (AP)—Police say a Utah man who was viewing child pornography on a Delta flight from Salt Lake City to Boston has been arrested. Massachusetts State Police say 47-year-old Grant Smith, of Cottonwood Heights, Utah, was sitting in first class Saturday afternoon when a fellow passenger saw the pornographic images on Smith's laptop and alerted the flight crew. When the plane landed at Boston Logan International Airport just after 4 p.m., troopers interviewed Smith and subsequently arrested him. He has

been charged with possession of child pornography, and police say additional charges could follow. His bail is set at \$15,000, and he's scheduled to be arraigned Monday.

#### Condemned inmate rips Ore. gov. for execution halt

**SALEM, Ore.** (AP)—A condemned inmate who was scheduled to be executed next month is slamming Gov. John Kitzhaber for giving him a reprieve, saying the governor didn't have the guts to carry out the execution. Two-time murderer Gary Haugen had voluntarily given up his legal challenges, saying he wants to be executed in protest of a criminal justice system he views as broken. But Kitzhaber on Tuesday said he won't allow anyone to be executed while he is in office, calling Oregon's death penalty scheme "compromised and inequitable." But in a telephone interview with the Statesman Journal (http://stjrn.tSY0qo) on Friday, Haugen mocked Kitzhaber. "I feel he's a paper cowboy," he said. "He couldn't pull the trigger."



## Asia

## NATO attack allegedly kills 24 Pakistani troops

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan has blocked vital supply routes for U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan and demanded Washington vacate a base used by American drones after coalition aircraft allegedly killed 24 Pakistani troops at two posts along a mountainous frontier that serves as a safe haven for militants.

The incident Saturday was a major blow to American efforts to rebuild an already tattered alliance vital to winding down the 10-year-old Afghan war. Islamabad called the bloodshed in one of its tribal areas a “grave infringement” of the country’s sovereignty, and it could make it even more difficult for the U.S. to enlist Pakistan’s help in pushing Afghan insurgents to engage in peace talks.

A NATO spokesman said it was likely that coalition airstrikes caused Pakistani casualties, but an investigation was being conducted to determine the details. If confirmed, it would be the deadliest friendly fire incident by NATO against Pakistani troops since the Afghan war began a decade ago.

A prolonged closure of Pakistan’s two Afghan border crossings to NATO supplies could



Pakistani protesters shout slogans against America and NATO in Lahore, Pakistan on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011.

cause serious problems for the coalition. The U.S., which is the largest member of the NATO force in Afghanistan, ships more than 30 percent of its non-lethal

supplies through Pakistan. The coalition has alternative routes through Central Asia into northern Afghanistan, but they are costlier and less efficient.

Pakistan temporarily closed one of its Afghan crossings to NATO supplies last year after U.S. helicopters accidentally killed two Pakistani soldiers.

Suspected militants took advantage of the impasse to launch attacks against stranded or rerouted trucks carrying NATO supplies. The government reopened the border after about 10 days when

the U.S. apologized. NATO said at the time the relatively short closure did not significantly affect its ability to keep its troops supplied.

But the reported casualties are much greater this time, and the relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. has severely deteriorated over the last year, especially following the covert American raid that killed Osama bin Laden in a Pakistani garrison town in May. Islamabad was outraged that it wasn’t told about the operation beforehand.

The government announced it closed its border crossings to NATO in a statement issued after an emergency meeting of the Cabinet’s defense committee chaired by Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

It also said that within 15 days the U.S. must vacate Shamsi Air Base, which is located in southwestern Baluchistan province. The U.S. uses the base to service drones that target al-Qaida and Taliban militants in Pakistan’s tribal region when they cannot return to their bases inside Afghanistan because of weather conditions or mechanical difficulty, said U.S. and Pakistani officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive strategic matters.

## US vows full probe into Pakistan border incident

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration on Saturday pledged a full investigation into a NATO attack that allegedly killed 24 Pakistani troops.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in a joint statement offered their “deepest condolences” for the loss of life in the cross-border incident in Pakistan. Clinton and Panetta also said they “support fully NATO’s intention to investigate immediately.”

Secretary Clinton, Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. John Allen, commander of the NATO-led coalition forces in

Afghanistan, each called their Pakistani counterparts as well, the statement said.

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Cameron Munter also met with Pakistani government officials in Islamabad.

“In their contacts, these US diplomatic and military leaders each stressed—in addition to their sympathies and a commitment to review the circumstances of the incident—the importance of the US-Pakistani partnership, which serves the mutual interests of our people,” the statement said.

“All these leaders pledged to remain in close contact with their Pakistani counterparts going forward as we

work through this challenging time,” the statement concluded.

The incident was a major blow to American efforts to rebuild an already tattered alliance vital to winding down the 10-year-old Afghan war. It was the latest in a series of setbacks to the alliance, often caused by border incidents.

Islamabad called the bloodshed in one of its tribal areas a “grave infringement” of the country’s sovereignty.

If confirmed, it would be the deadliest friendly fire incident by NATO against Pakistani troops since the Afghan war began a decade ago.

A NATO spokesman said it was likely that coalition air-

strikes caused Pakistani casualties, but an investigation was being conducted to determine the details.

The relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. has severely deteriorated over the last year, especially following the covert American raid that killed Osama bin Laden in a Pakistani garrison town in May. Islamabad was outraged it wasn’t told about the operation beforehand.

The border issue is a major source of tension between Islamabad and Washington, which is committed to withdrawing its combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

## Marines to wind down Afghan combat in 2012

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. Marines will march out of Afghanistan by the thousands next year, winding down combat in the Taliban heartland and testing the U.S. view that Afghan forces are capable of leading the fight against a battered but not yet beaten insurgency in the country’s southwestern reaches, American military officers say.

At the same time, U.S. reinforcements will go to eastern Afghanistan in a bid to reverse recent gains by insurgents targeting Kabul, the capital.

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, said in an Associated Press interview

that the number of Marines in Helmand province will drop “markedly” in 2012, and the role of those who stay will shift from countering the insurgency to training and advising Afghan security forces.

The change suggests an early exit from Afghanistan for the Marine Corps even as the prospects for solidifying their recent successes are uncertain.

“Am I OK with that? The answer is ‘yes,’” Amos said. “We can’t stay in Afghanistan forever.”

“Will it work? I don’t know. But I know we’ll do our part.”

At stake is President Barack Obama’s pledge to win in Af-

ghanistan. He said during his 2008 campaign that the war was worth fighting and that he would get U.S. forces out of Iraq.

Facing a stalemate in Afghanistan in 2009, Obama ordered an extra 30,000 U.S. troops to the country, including about 10,000 Marines to Helmand province, in the belief that if the Taliban were to retake the government, al-Qaida soon would return to the land from which it plotted the Sept. 11 attacks.

Also at stake are the sacrifices of the nearly 300 Marines killed in Afghanistan over the past three years.

Weighing against prolonging

the conflict is its unsustainable cost and what author and former Defense Department official Bing West has called its “grinding inconclusiveness.”

In a series of pep talks to Marines in Helmand this past week, Amos said the Marine mission in Afghanistan would end in the next 12 months to 18 months. That is as much as two years before the December 2014 deadline, announced a year ago, for all U.S. and other foreign troops to leave the country.

“Savor being out here together,” Amos told Marines on Thanksgiving at an outpost along the Helmand River called Fiddler’s Green, “because it’s going to be over” soon.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

## Malaysia pressured to scrap law against rallies

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia’s government faced mounting pressure Sunday to scrap plans for a law that would ban street protests, despite agreeing to ease other restrictions on rallies that activists have called repressive. The proposed law to regulate public demonstrations has prompted lawyers, opposition leaders and rights groups to accuse Prime Minister Najib Razak’s National Front coalition of cracking down on freedom of assembly ahead of general elections widely expected next year. Details of the Peaceful Assembly Bill announced last week included a requirement for rally organizers to inform police about their plans 30 days in advance. Street demonstrations would be forbidden, effectively limiting rallies to stadiums and public halls.

## All 3 kidnapped SKoreans now free in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An army general says kidnappers have abandoned two South Korean businessmen as troops closed in on them in the restive southern Philippines. The gunmen had been holding three South Korean businessmen. The first, Choi Inn-so, was released Friday, apparently because he fell ill. On Satur-

day, the other two were found in Lanao del Norte province. Army Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes says Wu Seok-bung and Kim Nam-du were weak and starving when troops found them. Coballes said Sunday that a Filipino guide seized with the Koreans on Oct. 21 was reportedly shot in captivity, but that troops would continue to look for him and the kidnappers. The group were checking on a mining investment and had failed to return to their hotel. Coballes said officials negotiated with the kidnappers, but that no ransom was paid.

## Indonesia bridge collapses; 4 dead, scores missing

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescue teams searched for survivors Sunday after a busy bridge collapsed in central Indonesia, sending a bus, cars and motorcycles crashing into the river below. Four people were killed and scores more were missing. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman for the country’s disaster management agency, said the sprawling concrete bridge on the remote island of Borneo was being repaired when Saturday’s accident occurred. Workers were tightening screws and bolts when a steel support cable snapped and the bridge, which was less than 10 years old, came smashing down.



# World

## Pope: sex abuse 'scourge' for all society

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI insisted on Saturday that all of society's institutions and not just the Catholic church must be held to "exacting" standards in their response to sex abuse of children, and defended the church's efforts to confront the problem.

Benedict acknowledged in remarks to visiting U.S. bishops during an audience at the Vatican that pedophilia was a "scourge" for society, and that decades of scandals over clergy abusing children had left Catholics in the United States bewildered.

"It is my hope that the Church's conscientious efforts to confront this reality will help the broader community to recognize the causes, true extent and devastating consequences of sexual abuse, and to respond effectively to this scourge which affects every

level of society," he said.

"By the same token, just as the church is rightly held to exacting standards in this regard, all other institutions, without exception, should be held to the same standards," the pope said.

An official of a U.S. group advocating for victims of clergy abuse lamented that Benedict, with his remarks, was setting a "terrible example" for bishops.

"No public figure talks more about child safety but does little to actually make children safer than Pope Benedict," David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, told The Associated Press in an emailed statement.

"The pope would have us believe that this crisis is about sex abuse. It isn't. It is about covering up sex abuse," Clohessy said. "And while child sex crimes happen in every institution, in

no institution are they ignored or concealed as consistently as in the Catholic church."

The pedophile scandal has exploded in recent decades in the United States, but similar clergy sex abuse revelations have tainted the church in many other countries, including Mexico, Ireland, and several other European nations, including Italy.

But the most high-profile sex abuse case in the United States at the moment doesn't involve the church. Penn State university's former defensive football coordinator Jerry Sandusky has been charged with sexually abusing eight boys, and the fallout has led to the firing of long-time coach Joe Paterno and the departure of university president Graham Spanier.

College football in the U.S. is highly popular. The scandal has shaken the reputation of a college program that long had

prided itself on integrity.

An advocacy group for those who have been sexually abused cited the Penn State scandal in its scathing criticism of the pope.

"It takes hubris for Pope Benedict to tell his bishops that the Catholic Church has led in the fight against sexual

abuse of children," said Kristine Ward, chair of the National Survivor Advocates Coalition. "Issuing self-satisfied pats on the back while children remain in danger only further diminishes the church's credibility and deepens the laryngitis in its moral voice."

"The church to this day, while

waving a moral flag, hasn't even come close to the Penn State Board of Trustees response—no bishop has been fired," Ward said in a statement.

Benedict didn't address accusations by many victims and their advocates that church leaders, including at the office in the Vatican that Benedict headed before becoming pontiff, systematically tried to cover up the scandals, and that they have rarely been held accountable for that.



Pope Benedict XVI is framed by Swiss guards as he arrives to hold an audience for members of the Caritas, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011. AP

## Blasts kill 15 in Iraq as US troops pull out

BAGHDAD, (AP)—A string of explosions hit a Baghdad market and the capital's western outskirts on Saturday, killing at least 15 people and exposing the challenges still facing Iraqi security forces just over a month before all American troops leave the country.

The bombings mark the second major attack against Iraqi civilians this week and come as American forces are packing up to leave and handing over their remaining security responsibilities to Iraqi forces. Many Iraqis are concerned that insurgents may use the transition period to launch more attacks in a bid to regain their former prominence and destabilize the country.

Iraqi security officials maintain that they are fully prepared for the American withdrawal, which is required under a 2008 security pact between the U.S. and Iraq. About 15,000 U.S.

troops remain in the country, down from a one-time high of about 170,000.

Earlier this week, the top U.S. general in Iraq, Lloyd Austin, said that there would likely be some "turbulence" after American troops leave. But he did not think there would be a wholesale descent into violence.

The first blasts Saturday struck an area where people looking for work were gathered in the mostly Sunni village of al-Zaidan, west of Baghdad. Seven people were killed and 11 others were wounded, police officials said.

Hours later, three bombs exploded near kiosks in a market in downtown Baghdad where vendors were selling CDs and military uniforms, killing eight people and wounding 19 others.

"I went outside my shop and saw people running in all directions trying to leave the

market area. I saw several bodies and wounded people on the ground," said Mohammed Youssef, who owns a clothing shop in the area.

Iraqi military commanders later ordered all the vendors selling products in the area to close up their kiosks and move, in an attempt to clear out the area and make it harder for insurgents to hide bombs.

Health officials at Abu Ghraib's general hospital and at three hospitals in Baghdad confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

The market had until recently been protected by blast walls, but the military spokesman for Baghdad, Qassim al-Moussawi, said they were removed because the security situation in the city has been improving.

## Yemen sets date for presidential vote

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen scheduled early presidential elections for early next year on Saturday in line with a power-sharing deal aimed at ending a nine-month political crisis, according to the country's official news agency.

The agreement would make President Ali Abdullah Saleh the fourth dictator pushed from power this year by the Arab Spring uprisings, although it has been rejected by many protesters because it would grant the reviled leader immunity from prosecution and does not include far-reaching political changes like those brought about by the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

The U.S.-backed Gulf Arab proposal signed Wednesday in the Saudi capital Riyadh calls for Saleh to pass power to his deputy within 30 days, after a new government sworn in by the vice president passes a law protecting Saleh and his associates from prosecution. Presidential elections also were to be held within 90 days, well ahead of the original date in 2013.

It came after months of resistance by the leader of 33 years despite massive protests calling for him to step down. Saleh had agreed to sign the deal at least three previous times only to back out at the last minute.

Vice President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi said Saturday that the vote will be held on Feb. 21 and no party has the

right to annul or change the decree, SABA reported. He made the announcement after Saleh gave him "the constitutional authorities to carry out dialogue with the parties that

### Ali Abdullah Saleh

*Yemen president to step down*

#### Early life

**Born** 1942 into a tribe living near Sanaa, Yemen

**Military** Begins career in 1958 as a noncommissioned officer

**Family** Married; family members, sons in key government posts

#### Rise to power

**1960** Becomes 2nd lieutenant

**1978** Elected by Parliament to be president of North Yemen; crushes attempt to overthrow him a few months later

**1990** North and South Yemen unite; both parliaments elect him president

**1999** Becomes Yemen's first directly-elected president

**2005** During 27th anniversary of his presidency announces he will not run in 2006; later changes mind and accepts nomination

#### Yemen protests

**Jan. 2011** Thousands call for Saleh to quit in protests that continue throughout the year, leave hundreds dead

**June 3** Flees to Saudi Arabia after an assassination attempt; returns to Yemen Sept. 23

**Nov. 23** Signs plan in Saudi Arabia to step down in 30 days

© 2011 MCT  
Source: Reuters, BBC, MCT Photo Services

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Colombia: Rebels execute 4 captives; 1 found alive

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia's main rebel group executed four of its longest-held captives during combat Saturday between guerrillas and soldiers searching for the men, the government said. A fifth captive fled into the jungle and survived. President Juan Manuel Santos called the killing of a soldier and three police officers "a crime against humanity" and dismissed any suggestions that Colombia's armed forces might be responsible. "They were held hostage for between 12 and 13 years and wound up cruelly murdered," Santos said.

#### 6 players killed in Togolese team bus crash

LOME, Togo (AP)—At least six topflight Togolese soccer players were killed and another 28 people critically injured on Saturday after a bus carrying their team plunged into a ravine and caught fire. In a statement read on national television, the Togo government said President Faure Gnassingbe had ordered that those injured from

the Etoile Filante club be taken to the military wing of the Lome Central Hospital to receive urgent medical attention. A delegation, led by sports minister Christophe Tchao, traveled to the accident site with an ambulance to evacuate the injured.

#### Congo: 2 killed in clashes days before poll

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Two people were killed in pre-vote clashes Saturday in Congo's capital and security officials fired into a crowd that included tens of thousands of opposition supporters, prompting officials to ban rallies before a critical poll that observers say could re-ignite conflict in the vast central African nation. Violence erupted Saturday among political supporters who had gathered to greet the top opposition presidential candidate, who had planned to come to the airport in a car convoy. Supporters of the president also gathered there to meet him, though he did not pass through the airport. At the airport, security forces fired tear gas and live ammunition into the burgeoning crowd.

signed the Gulf initiative."

While it was welcomed by the U.S., which fears instability in the country that's home to one of the world's most active al-Qaida branches, the agreement has failed to end the mass protests that have rocked Sanaa and other cities since February.

Thousands took to the streets on Saturday to demand that Saleh face trial for allegations of corruption and the killing of hundreds of protesters as his security forces brutally tried to end the uprising against him.

The deal doesn't explicitly ban Saleh from the country's political life—raising fears he could continue to play a political role.

Violence also continued, with Yemeni warplanes killing 80 anti-government tribesmen who overran part of a military camp in the Arhab region north of the capital.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media, said that warplanes and artillery had pounded the armed tribesmen for the past two days.

The number of deaths was not confirmed. But a soldier from Yemen's 63rd Brigade who fled the camp said tribesmen had overrun it several days ago. He spoke by telephone from Arhab, asking not to be identified for fear of government reprisal. The soldier said the tribesmen killed about 20 soldiers.



# Health & Fitness

## Giving thanks helps your psychological outlook

BY SETH BORENSTEIN  
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Count your blessings this Thanksgiving. It's good for you.

While it seems pretty obvious that gratitude is a positive emotion, psychologists for decades rarely delved into the science of giving thanks. But in the last several years they have, learning in many experiments that it is one of humanity's most powerful emotions. It makes you happier and can change your attitude about life, like an emotional reset button.

Especially in hard times, like these.

Beyond proving that being grateful helps you, psychologists also are trying to figure out the brain chemistry behind gratitude and the best ways of showing it.

"Oprah was right," said University of Miami psychology professor Michael McCullough, who has studied people who are asked to be regularly thankful. "When you are stopping and counting your blessings, you are sort of hijacking your emotional system."

And he means hijacking it from out of a funk into a good place.

A very good place. Research by McCullough and others finds that giving thanks is a potent emotion that feeds on itself, almost the equivalent of being victorious. It could be called a vicious circle, but it's anything but vicious.

He said psychologists used to underestimate the strength of simple gratitude: "It does make people happier ... It's that incredible feeling."

One of the reasons why gratitude works so well is that it connects us with others, McCullough said. That's why when you give thanks it should be more heartfelt and personal instead of a terse thank you note for a gift or a hastily run-through grace before dinner, psychologists say.

Chicago area psychologist and self-help book author Maryann Troiani said she starts getting clients on gratitude gradually, sometimes just by limiting their complaints to two whines a session. Then she eventually gets them to log good things that happened to them in gratitude journals: "Gratitude really changes your attitude and your outlook on life."

Gratitude journals or diaries, in which people list weekly or



In this file photo taken Nov. 22, 2007, United States soldiers offer prayers during a Thanksgiving Day celebration at a forward operating base Airborne in Wardak, Afghanistan. Counting your blessings this Thanksgiving isn't just a tradition. It's something that's good for you. Psychologists have studied the brain chemistry and positive effects of being grateful, something that works even in trying times like these and the ones that exited at the first Thanksgiving.

nightly what they are thankful for, are becoming regular therapy tools.

And in those journals, it is

important to focus more on the people you are grateful for, said Robert Emmons, a psychology professor at the University of California, Davis. Concentrate on what life would be without the good things—especially people such as spouses—in your life and how you are grateful they are there, he said.

Grateful people "feel more alert, alive, interested, enthusiastic. They also feel more connected to others," said Emmons, who has written two books on the science of gratitude and often studies the effects of those gratitude diaries.

"Gratitude also serves as a stress buffer," Emmons said in an e-mail interview. "Grateful people are less likely to experience envy, anger, resentment, regret and other unpleasant states that produce stress."

Scientists are not just looking at the emotions behind gratitude but the nuts-and-bolts physiology as well.

Preliminary theories look at the brain chemistry and hormones in the blood and neurotransmitters in the brain that are connected to feelings of gratitude, Emmons said. And the left prefrontal cortex of the brain, which is also associated with positive emotions like love and compassion, seems to be a key spot, especially in Buddhist monks, Emmons said.

However it works in the brain, Emmons said there is little doubt that it works.

Emmons, who has conducted several studies on people from ages 12 to 80, including those with neuromuscular disease, asked volunteers to keep daily

or weekly gratitude diaries. Another group listed hassles, and others just recorded random events. He noticed a significant and consistent difference. About three-quarters of the people studied who regularly counted their blessings scored higher in happiness tests and some even showed improvements in amounts of sleep and exercise.

Christopher Peterson of the University of Michigan studied different gratitude methods and found the biggest immediate improvement in happiness scores was among people who were given one week to write and deliver in person a letter of gratitude to someone who had

### ON THE NET

- Robert Emmons: <http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/labs/emmons/PWT/index.cfm>
- National Association of School Psychologists' tips on fostering gratitude in children: <http://bit.ly/rHlqCz>

been especially kind to them, but was never thanked. That emotional health boost was large, but it didn't last over the weeks and months to come.

Peterson also asked people to write down nightly three things that went well that day and why that went well. That took longer to show any difference in happiness scores over control groups, but after one month the results were significantly better and they stayed better through six months.

Peterson said it worked so well that he is adopted it in his daily life, writing from-the-heart thank you notes, logging his feelings of gratitude: "It was very beneficial for me. I was much more cheerful."

At the University of North

Carolina, Sara Algoe studied the interaction between cancer patients and their support group, especially when acts of gratitude were made. Like Peterson, she saw the effects last well over a month and she saw the feedback cycle that McCullough described.

"It must be really powerful," Algoe said.

It has to be potent to combat gloom many may be feeling in such uncertain times.

There have been many Thanksgivings throughout history that might challenge society's ability to be grateful. The first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims came after about half of the Plymouth colony died in the first year. Thanksgiving became a national holiday in the United States when Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it in 1863 during the Civil War, the deadliest war the country has ever known. And the holiday moved to the fourth Thursday in November during the tail end of the Great Depression.

Emmons actually encourages people to "think of your worst moments, your sorrows, your losses, your sadness and then remember that here you are, able to remember them. You got through the worst day of your life ... remember the bad things, then look to see where you are."

That grace amid difficulty motif may make this Thanksgiving especially meaningful, McCullough said.

"In order to be grateful for something, we have to remember that something good happened," Peterson said. "It's important to remind ourselves that the world doesn't always suck."

### In Celebration of His New Life Antonio DLG. Aldan

Born to life on November 08, 1949  
and was called to eternal rest on  
November 22, 2011.

**His memory will live in the hearts of his:**

**Wife:** Engracia "Grace" V. Aldan

**Children:** Junie Aldan Pangelinan and

Darwin Jessie Pangelinan

Anthony Aldan and Darlene P. Aldan

Stephanie Aldan and Joseph Manibusan

**Pinksai:** Jesse Anthony Aldan

**In his New Life, he now join his:**

**Parents:** †Felipe Castro Aldan / †Rosalia Taitingfong DLG. Aldan

**Daughter:** †Melva M. Berki

**Parents-in-law:** †Felix Cruz Villagomez / †Crisencia Borja Villagomez

Daily rosary is offered at their residence in Fina Sisu at 12:00pm. Mass is offered daily at Mt. Carmel at 6:00am.

On Wednesday, November 30, 2011, the body will be escorted from the CHC Morgue to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00am followed by the Responso and Holy Rosary.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00am followed by the burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

From: Grace Aldan, Children, Grandchildren and Family



## Life & Style

# Philly museum brings 'Birds of America' to public

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—One of the world's rarest and most valuable books is out of the vault and on public view as part of an unusual daily ritual at the nation's oldest natural history museum.

Every weekday at 3:15 p.m., a white-gloved staff member of the Academy of Natural Sciences lifts the locked protective cover from 19th century naturalist John James Audubon's influential book, "The Birds of America," and turns a large linen-backed page to reveal the bird of the day. More than 180 years after Audubon created the life-size illustrations that now link his name with ornithology, their vibrant watercolors and fine details are still remarkable.

"Many times these were framed as artworks and faded from exposure to light," said curator Robert Peck, who does many of the page turnings. "Ours weren't exposed to light, so they're in wonderful condition."

The Academy of Natural Sciences was an original pay-as-you-go subscriber of "The Birds of America" from 1827 to 1838. The complete folio of 435 hand-colored copper engravings on handmade paper, each measuring about 2 feet by 3 feet, cost \$1,000—the equivalent of around \$40,000 today, Peck said.

Every month or so during those years, "Birds of America" subscribers received a set of five

prints—usually one large show-stopper of a bird like the hot-pink Roseate Spoonbill, along with four prints of smaller species. Audubon created 87 sets of five in all; the museum bound its completed collection into five volumes.

"Some of the birds hadn't even been discovered yet when he started," Peck said.

Last year in London, a privately owned complete edition of "The Birds of America" sold at auction for \$11.5 million—a record-breaking price for a single book.

"He was so great at these paintings and he was such a wonderful character," Peck said. "He was a great storyteller with lots of anecdotes about his experiences of discovering these birds in the wild."

Audubon traveled for decades to observe birds in their habitats and to hunt samples he used as his models for his masterwork, which allowed people to see exotic species in incredible detail and full color before the invention of photography. In the studio, he posed them with wire in positions he observed from nature and included details specific to each bird's territory.

Several birds in the book are now extinct, including the once plentiful Carolina Parakeet and Passenger Pigeon. During his



In this Nov. 21, 2011 photo, Robert Peck, senior fellow of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and curator of Art and Artifacts, turns a page in a bound folio of John James Audubon's "The Birds of America," published from 1827–1838, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Once a day, an academy staff member turns a page and talks about Audubon's work.

field work, Audubon discovered more than two dozen new species and was lauded by 19th century scientists such as Charles Darwin for his efforts.

"The Birds of America" long spent its days out of public view in The Academy of Natural Sci-

ences' rare books vault, available only to scholars by appointment, until officials decided recently to bring their treasure out of hiding. Its age, value and superb condition means displaying the book must be done with great care, however.

With a two-handed, white-gloved, gentle turn of the page, Peck revealed the Black Skimmer to the "oohs" and "ahhs" of about a half-dozen people on a recent afternoon. There are no frequent visitors in this group but Peck said a few "regulars"

have become familiar faces at the page turnings.

"We've been here since the doors opened, and we were about to leave when the announcement came on that this was happening," said Diana Gehman of Barto, 50 miles north of Philadelphia, who brought two of her grandsons to the museum. "I'm so glad we stayed to see it."

Aidan McQuade, 9, and Kieran McQuade, 7, are admittedly bigger fans of snakes—so a sneak peek Peck provided of an upcoming American Anhinga page got their attention. Its long neck resembles a snake ready to strike when the Anhinga—also called a snakebird—is swimming.

"They love the outdoors, they love nature," said Gehman, a retired teacher. "So much land has been lost to development ... it's incredible how much (the landscape) has changed.

It's important to appreciate what we have."

The bird of the day, and a preview of birds the next couple of page-turnings will reveal, can be seen on the museum's website. Visitors can see it in person as part of the price of general admission, which is \$12 for adults and \$10 for children.

"There are only about 60 institutions in the nation that have the original edition of 'The Birds of America,'" said Clare Flemming, an archivist at the museum. "I don't know of any other place that turns the page for the public every weekday."

## Influential jazz drummer Paul Motian dies in NYC

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Long-time jazz drummer and composer Paul Motian, who came to prominence as a member of pianist Bill Evans' trio in the late 1950s and influenced a generation of musicians with his astounding sense of time, died Tuesday at age 80.

Motian died at a Manhattan hospital because of complications of a bone marrow disorder, said friend and bandmate Joe Lovano, a tenor saxophonist who began performing with him in 1981. "He was a hard-swinging free jazz drummer with an uncanny sense of time-phrasing and form that was beyond description," Lovano said.

Motian, who grew up in Providence, R.I., and spent time in the Navy, came to the forefront while a member of Evans' trio in the late 1950s and early 1960s, playing on landmark recordings such as "Waltz for Debby" and "Sunday at the Village Vanguard." He also had longtime partnerships with pianist Keith Jarrett, bassist Charlie Hayden and guitarist Bill Frisell.

Lovano called him a "true natural and one of the most ex-

pressive musicians in jazz."

"His touch and sound, sense of dynamics were so personal and unmatched," Lovano said.

Motian's career also included stints as a bandleader, beginning with the album "Conception Vessel" in 1972, and as a composer of works Lovano characterized as "hauntingly beautiful."

"As a composer he wrote pieces of music that were vehicles for improvisation," Lovano said.

Even after Motian stopped touring, he continued to perform and record, mostly in New York and most often at the Village Vanguard jazz club, where he last performed in September, according to Lovano. His repertoire included originals, American songbook standards and traditional bebop.

Jarrett said Motian was a good drummer because he "understood composition."

"A lot of drummers are good drummers because they have some understanding of rhythm," Jarrett told The New York Times. "Paul had an innate love of song."

## Founder of Jamaica reggae, rocksteady trio dies

**KINGSTON, Jamaica** (AP)—One of the founders of a leading Jamaican reggae and rocksteady trio from the 1960s has died.

A bandmate says Barry Llewellyn of the Heptones died Wednesday at age 64. Lead singer Leroy Sibbles said

Friday that Llewellyn died of unknown causes at Kingston Public Hospital.

Llewellyn founded the Heptones with Earl Morgan in the late 1950s. The group was considered highly influential during the island's rocksteady

era in the 1960s.

The Heptones reunited in the 1990s after a nearly 20-year absence during a worldwide ska and rocksteady revival.

Llewellyn is survived by his wife, Monica, and several children.

**IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE**

*Rosita Camacho Terlaje Pangelinan*

July 14, 1968 – November 18, 2011

This is to inform the relatives and friends of  
**Rosita Camacho Terlaje Pangelinan,**  
 daughter of the late †Jose and †Regina Camacho Terlaje and  
 wife of Mark Dave Sablan Pangelinan was called to her eternal rest on  
 November 18, 2011 at the University of Washington  
 Medical Center, Seattle, Washington.

Daily Mass is being offered at San Jose Church,  
 Oleai at the following dates and times:

Monday, November 21, 2011	6:00AM	Monday, November 28, 2011	6:00AM
Tuesday, November 22, 2011	6:00AM	Tuesday, November 29, 2011	6:00AM
Wednesday, November 23, 2011	6:00PM	Wednesday, November 30, 2011	6:00PM
Thursday, November 24, 2011	7:00AM & 9:00AM	Thursday, December 01, 2011	6:00AM
Friday, November 25, 2011	6:00AM	Friday, December 02, 2011	6:00AM
Saturday, November 26, 2011	6:00PM	Saturday, December 03, 2011	6:00PM
Sunday, November 27, 2011	7:30AM & 9:00AM	Sunday, December 04, 2011	7:30AM & 9:00AM

**Mass of Christian Burial will be announced at a later date.**  
*I tinayuyut miyu yan I finaton miyu en sen agradesi.*  
*Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

**Ginen as Mark, famagu'on-ña yan i familia**



# Teddy Roosevelt's NY home set for \$6.2M rehab

**OYSTER BAY, N.Y. (AP)**—Theodore Roosevelt had a lot of stuff.

There's the massive head of a 2,000-pound African cape buffalo hanging over a fireplace near the front entrance of his home, Sagamore Hill, on the north shore of Long Island. Next to a large desk in the North Room sits a wastepaper basket made from the hollowed foot of an elephant. Nearby, there's an inkwell crafted from part of a rhino. More than four dozen rugs made from bearskins and other creatures taken down by the noted big game hunter adorn nearly every room.

There are 8,000 books, and thousands of items from flags to furniture, busts to baubles and medals to mementoes.

Everything must go.

The entire contents of Sagamore Hill are being packed up and put in storage as the National Park Service prepares for a three-year, \$6.2 million renovation of the 28-room, Queen Anne-Shingle style mansion in Oyster Bay. The 26th president of the United States, who had the home built for him in 1885, lived there until his death in 1919. He used Sagamore Hill as a "summer White House" during his presidency from 1901-1909.

Workers have already spent nine months packing books and other smaller items into boxes, using special care to catalog every one and place it on a computer spreadsheet. The three-story home has 15 bedrooms and three bathrooms, as well as sitting rooms and offices. It sits on a nearly 83-acre high atop a hill overlooking an inlet that leads to Long Island Sound.

Sagamore Hill, which sees about 50,000 visitors annually, closes to the public on Dec. 5 so craftspeople can begin the heavy lifting in earnest to rehabilitate



In this Nov. 23, 2011 photo, Sagamore Hill, which former President Theodore Roosevelt called home until his death in 1919, is seen in Oyster Bay, N.Y.

the 1885 home that hasn't seen any major renovations in more than a half century. A much smaller display of Roosevelt memorabilia—including his White House china—will remain on display in a smaller building on the property throughout the three-year project.

Plans call for upgrades to the electrical, heating, security and fire suppression systems throughout the home, which has been a National Park Service historic site since the early 1960s. Exterior work will include a new roof, gutter and drainage system, foundation waterproofing, and restoration of 78 historic windows, doors,

porches and siding.

Also to be restored are Sagamore Hill's original rear porch and a skylight in the center of the house, both of which were altered or removed in the 1950s when the Theodore Roosevelt Association owned the property and first opened it to public visits. The association ran Sagamore Hill for about a decade before the National Park Service took over in 1962—a somewhat fitting custodian for the home of the man who championed the creation of the national park system.

"Theodore Roosevelt's house is like anybody else's house," said Amy Verone, chief of cul-

tural resources at Sagamore Hill. She joked, however, that not everyone tackling a renovation project in their home has to contend with finding a place for 10-foot-elephant tusks adorned with silver inlays.

"You should replace your furnace system, you should update your electrical system, you should do all those kinds of things," Verone said. "But in order to facilitate that work, we have to empty the house, because the artifacts are historic. We can't just run out and buy a new one if we drop or break something."

National Park officials at Sagamore Hill first talked of

rehabilitating the mansion in the late 1990s, competing for finances with other park projects across the country. Finally, funding was awarded in 2008, and after three years of planning, actual construction is set to begin next spring.

Although officials have consulted with museum experts—including someone at the Smithsonian Institution who advised on the care and storage of the animal skin rugs—they confess finding inspiration in many places. "We love 'This Old House,'" Verone said of the PBS series on home fix-ups. "We're always watching it for clues."

Sagamore Hill is somewhat of a precursor to the modern concept of presidential libraries, which didn't come into fashion until one was built for President Herbert Hoover in the 1930s, Verone said. Before that, presidents usually gave their official papers to the Library of Congress, as was the case with Roosevelt, although his personal papers went to Harvard, his alma mater, she said.

The first national historic site was designated in the 19th century when volunteers worked to rehabilitate George Washington's home at Mount Vernon after it had fallen into disrepair. Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello and several locations associated with Abraham Lincoln are among the other sites. Most former presidents are remembered in some way, either by private associations, the park service or state-run programs, she said.

Roosevelt's birthplace in Manhattan, the site where he was inaugurated in Buffalo after the assassination of William McKinley, a national park in North Dakota and a small island in the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., are also historic sites operated by the Park Service. Sagamore Hill superintendent Tom Ross said "TR" also has a "home" at Mount Rushmore.

Sagamore Hill, Ross said, "is a priceless, irreplaceable resource." He said the preservation is important "so that we can preserve the history and heritage and share it with future generations."

Verone said visitors to Sagamore Hill learn that Roosevelt tackled many of the same problems the country faces today. "What kind of country will we be? A place like Sagamore Hill helps remind the public of that."

"These aren't new problems; these are conversations we've been having for 100 years."

## Weinstein desires to become recognized film brand

**NEW YORK (AP)**—While Harvey Weinstein has no plans to roar like the MGM lion before each of his movies, the Oscar-winning producer wants to turn the film studio bearing his family's name into a recognizable brand. His wish list includes branding on par with Facebook's F, Twitter's T and Apple's, well, apple.

While he says he will continue to use the "the black and white logo that looks like it's from high school in 1954," he's letting his films this week do the talking—or at least one of them.

Already in theaters is "My Week with Marilyn," starring two-time Oscar nominee Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe. It's based on the writings of Colin Clark, who spent a week with the iconic actress in 1957 while she was filming "The Prince and the Showgirl" in the United Kingdom.

Weinstein, who heads The

Weinstein Co. with his brother, explained the subject matter's appeal to him.

"I wanted to be that 23-year old boy and spend a week with Marilyn Monroe and go skinny-dipping," Weinstein said Wednesday. "Haven't we all dreamed of being with someone that gorgeous?"

But this is not another Monroe biopic. Weinstein calls it "a snapshot movie about one episode in her life." He equates the film's tone with his 2010 Oscar winner for best picture, "The King's Speech," about a speech therapist who helps King George VI.

With production credits in such Broadway hits as "Billy Elliot," "The Producers" and "God of Carnage," Weinstein always has his eyes on Broadway. He admits it's a dream to bring "My Week with Marilyn" to the great stage in "five to 10 years." And when that happens, he has his heart set on seeing



Harvey Weinstein, film producer and co-chairman of The Weinstein Company, is shown in New York on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011.

Monroe played by singer Katy Perry, whom he met while taking his daughters to the annual Jingle Ball concert at Madison Square Garden last year.

"I think Katy would be perfect to play Marilyn Monroe," Weinstein said, adding: "She would knock it out of the universe."

Weinstein's other new film, "The Artist," which comes out Friday, is a modern homage to the silent film era and was the darling of the Cannes and Toronto International film festivals. It was shot in black and white using the original 4:3 aspect ratio.

While the film is not your

typical studio release, Weinstein doesn't concern himself with such things.

"With a script or a book I try to do what would appeal to me," he says proudly. "I'm not here to do the mainstream movies."

And the results are promising. Weinstein likes the buzz both films are getting, but his source isn't what you'd expect: It's the RottenTomatoes.com website, which compiles reviews and assigns percentage scores based on the average.

"I just go to Rotten Tomatoes to check on who's writing, and I read some of the reviews on Rotten Tomatoes," he said. "I like the site. It's fun. I like the interviews on the site."

Weinstein was proud to report Wednesday the Monroe film was at 85 percent. And "The Artist" was trending a bit higher, based on reviews going back to April, when it played at Cannes.

"I wish I could brand the movies in a way so they would just look at the page and trust

me rather than a critic or anything else," Weinstein said.

Weinstein has been seeking advice from firms like Christian Dior and Louis Vuitton about how consumers recognize their products. Oddly enough, he's not expecting to recreate that Columbia Pictures lady with the torch. The iconic Leo the Lion has become synonymous with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Weinstein says that while the lion is a powerful symbol, he's not seeking that type of message. Nor is he shy about the brand.

"The thing about MGM and why it doesn't work at the end of the day is because they would make great musicals and then they would make Andy Hardy movies, or they would make Tarzan movies, so you never know what you got at MGM."

"I'm pretty consistent, at least on my side of the fence, with making a certain, you know, they call it artistic, it's really not, but something that is just a little more literary in its approach."



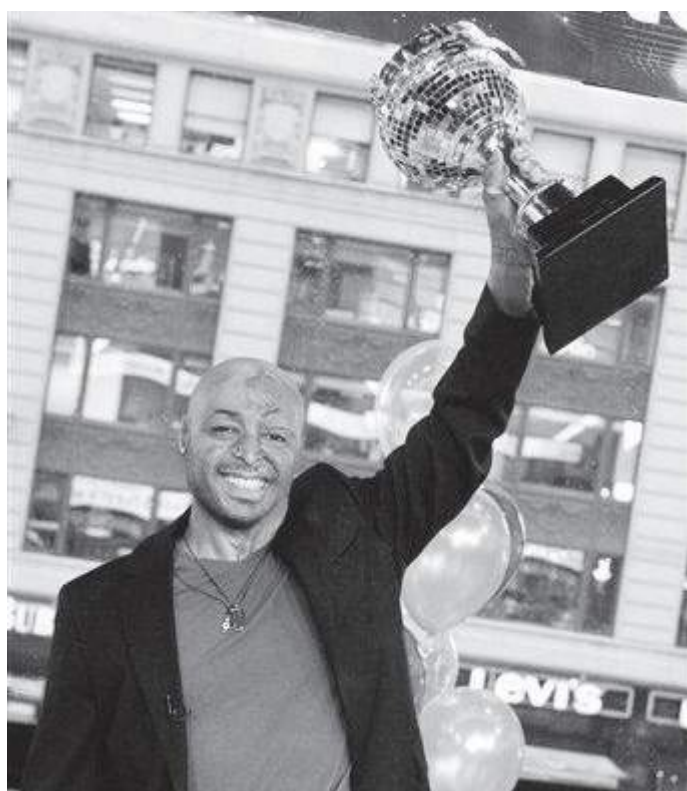
## Pentagon visit ahead for veteran who's dance champ

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has invited soldier-turned-actor J.R. Martinez, winner of this season's "Dancing with the Stars" competition, to meet him at the Pentagon.

During a 10-minute telephone call Friday, Panetta told the dance champion he demonstrated the strength and resilience of wounded veterans, Pentagon spokesman Capt. John Kirby said.

Martinez credited his military training for his performance on the ABC show, Kirby said. Martinez and professional partner Karina Smirnoff bested fellow finalists Rob Kardashian and Ricki Lake in the finale broadcast Tuesday.

Martinez, 28, was severely burned over more than 40 percent of his body when the Humvee he was driving for the U.S. Army in Iraq struck a land mine in 2003. After dozens of operations during a nearly



War veteran and actor J.R. Martinez, winner of the "Dancing with the Stars" celebrity dance competition, appears on "Good Morning America" in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011.

three-year recovery, Martinez became a motivational speaker and in 2008 won a role on the now-retired ABC soap opera "All My Children."

Details of Panetta's meeting with Martinez are being worked out.

## Stockard Channing shrugs off pain to hit the stage



In this June 7, 2009, file photo, actress Stockard Channing arrives at the 63rd Annual Tony Awards in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Stockard Channing has made a speedy—some might say miraculous—return to Broadway.

The 67-year-old Tony Award-winner performed in "Other Desert Cities" on Friday night and plans to continue in the show despite undergoing arthroscopic surgery on her right knee less than a week ago.

Channing felt her knee collapse backstage after the Nov. 18 show and missed seven performances. She plans to perform in Saturday night's show and Sunday's matinee. An understudy performed Saturday's matinee and will do Wednesday's matinee.

The Jon Robin Baitz play, about a dysfunctional family wrestling with a deep secret, opened Nov. 3.

In an interview Friday before her return, Channing said: "This is maybe stupid. I don't know. But if it doesn't blow up or get painful, I'm doing the right thing."

## NBC apologizes to Bachmann for Fallon song choice

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—GOP Presidential candidate Michele Bachmann received an apology from an NBC executive after an off-color song was played during her appearance on Jimmy Fallon's "Late Night," her spokeswoman said late Wednesday.

The Minnesota congresswoman received a personal letter from NBC's vice president for late night programming, Doug Vaughan, a day after she appeared on the show. As Bachmann walked onstage, the show's band had played a snippet of a 1985 Fishbone song entitled "Lyn' Ass B----."

Vaughan wrote that the incident was "not only unfortunate but also unacceptable," Bachmann spokeswoman Alice Stewart told The Associated Press. She said Vaughn offered his sincerest apologies and said the band had been "severely reprimanded."

Fallon also apologized to Bachmann when she spoke earlier Wednesday, she said. He'd tweeted earlier, saying he was "so sorry about the intro mess."

"He was extremely nice and friendly and offered his apology, and she accepted it," Stewart said, adding that the comedian said he was unaware the band planned to play the song. "It's just unfortunate that someone had to do something so disrespectful."

Bachmann lashed out earlier Wednesday at NBC for not apologizing or taking immediate disciplinary action. In her first comments on the flap, Bachmann said on the Fox News Channel that the Fallon show band displayed sexism and bias by playing the song.

"This is clearly a form of bias on the part of the Hollywood entertainment elite," Bachmann said. She added, "This wouldn't be tolerated if this was Michelle Obama. It shouldn't be tolerated if it's a conservative woman either."

She went further on a national



In this image released by NBC, Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann, of Minnesota, left, points to a photo of host Jimmy Fallon, dressed as Bachmann, during a visit to "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," that aired early Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 in New York.

radio conservative radio show hosted by Michael Medved, calling the incident "inappropriate, outrageous and disrespectful."

On Fox, Bachmann expressed surprise that she's heard nothing from the TV network. She suggested that discipline for the show's band, The Roots, was in order. She said she believed Fallon's comments to be sincere.

One of Bachmann's congressional colleagues, New York Democrat Nita Lowey, had called on NBC to apologize for its "in-

sulting and inappropriate" treatment of its guest.

An NBC spokeswoman didn't return a phone message from The Associated Press.

The Roots' bandleader, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, has said the song was a "tongue-in-cheek and spur-of-the-moment decision."

Bachmann, who is lagging in presidential polls, has spent the week promoting her new autobiography in national television interviews.

## 'A Simple Life' big winner at Taiwan film festival

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Hong Kong's Ann Hui has won the best director award for her movie "A Simple Life" at Taiwan's Golden Horse Film Festival.

The jovial veteran director says she was surprised that Saturday's award did not go to one of the promising younger directors also nominated at the event for Chinese-language movies.

"A Simple Life" also won Andy Lau the best actor award and Deanie Ip the best actress honor. Ip plays a domestic helper who copes with her own aging while serving her master, played by Lau.

Lau said the awards would encourage Hong Kong's lagging film industry to keep pro-



Taiwanese director Wei Te-sheng, third from left, and Taiwanese actors of the movie "Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale" pose with other actors at the 48th Golden Horse Awards, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, in Hsinchu, northern Taiwan.

ducing good movies.

The best film award went to Taiwanese director Wei Te-sheng's "Warriors of the Rain-

bow: Seediq Bale," an epic film about an aboriginal tribe's uprising against Japanese colonial rulers.

## Fiance's adult son is short on money, long on demands

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiance and I plan to be married in the coming year. It will be the second marriage for both of us. My intended has an "adult" son I'll call "Jeff," who graduated from college last year and makes good money. His father has helped him out by paying his tuition, car loan, rent, a generous allowance and various other loans that have never been repaid.

Jeff comes up short almost every month because he blows his money on vacations, clothing, electronic gadgets, etc., so he needs \$500 to \$1,000 to "get on his feet." If his father refuses, Jeff resorts to name-calling and emotional blackmail.

I earn a good living and have a tidy nest egg, and I'm concerned that Jeff's irresponsibility and his father's enabling will put a comfortable retirement for us in jeopardy. I feel like this is my business, too—but I don't want to come between father and son. What's your advice?

THRIFTY IN WYOMING

**DEAR THRIFTY:** Your concerns are legitimate. Your fiance is doing his son no favors by footing the bills for his irresponsible behavior. But on some level he already knows that and may be doing it because he feels guilty about the divorce from Jeff's mother.

Before marrying your fiance, discuss this with an attorney to be sure your interests will be protected. The assets you accumulated before the marriage should be kept separate, and there should be a clear understanding that any monies you earn will not benefit his son, who appears to be a bottomless pit.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I divorced several years ago because of his cocaine habit. He had been taking money from our accounts, etc.

After our divorce I met someone. It was several months before I agreed to a date. He's honest, fun, good-looking, hard-working and helps my family when he can. My problem is on our first date he told me he'd been a drug user and had spent time in prison. He said that was in the past. He got counseling, loves his new life and would not break the law again.

My children know about his past and say, "It's no big deal; it's the 21st century." We date, nothing more, but he alludes to wanting to propose. I'm afraid that when my parents and people in my small town find out about his past, they'll be shocked and I'll be shunned. I can't believe this is an issue in my life again.

Is it OK to date an ex-drug addict? Do some people beat the odds and stay clean? I'm scared that maybe I should have run away after that first date. Please advise.

WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP

**DEAR WAITING:** What did this man go to prison for? Was he selling drugs to support his habit? Stealing? Did he commit a violent crime?

While your children may think his past is "no big deal," it IS a big deal. However, whether it's a deal-breaker is up to you. If you had thought so, it would have been over after he mentioned he'd had the same problem as your ex-husband.

Some former addicts stay clean. Others have been known to backslide. If you love this man and he maintains his sobriety, consider his proposal sometime in the future. But I see no reason for you to rush into anything—do you?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



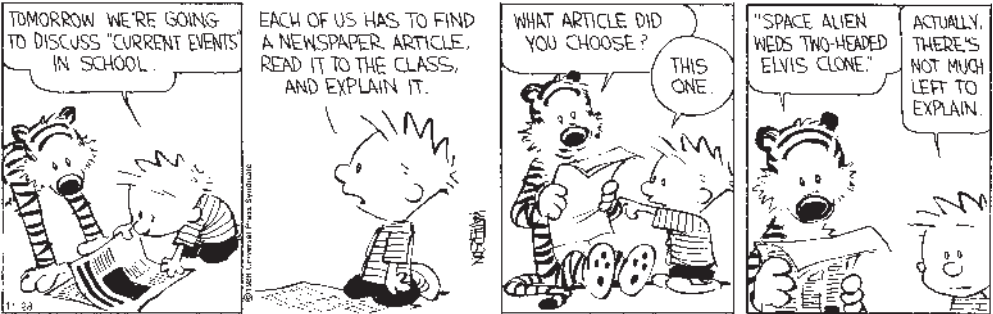
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

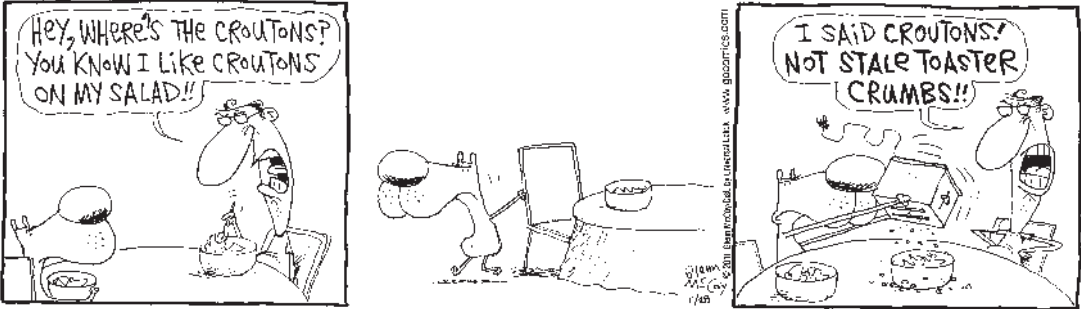


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Cam-bridge sch.  
4 Tweak the Con-stitution  
9 Letter-man's network  
12 Fuss  
13 Alamo hero with a knife named for him  
14 Feedbag morsel  
15 Part  
17 Biz deg.  
18 Commer-cials  
19 Quartz variety  
21 Baked potato's skin  
24 Liniment target  
25 Swelled head  
26 Stitch  
28 Esteem  
31 Simple arithmetic  
33 Sinbad's bird  
35 — St. Vincent Millay

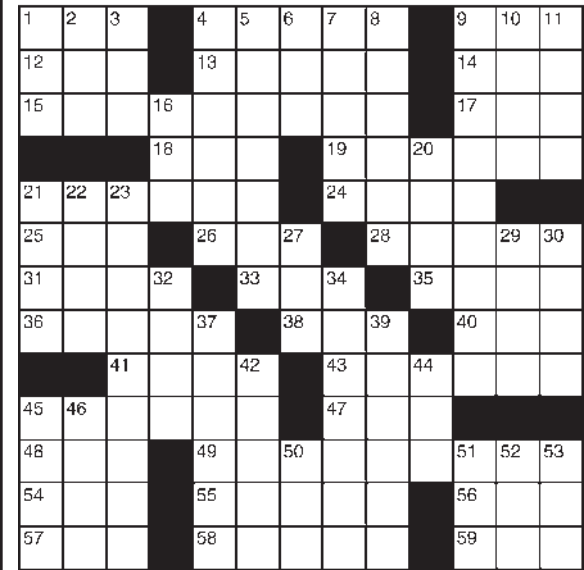
**DOWN**

10 Movie pig  
11 Celebrity  
16 Neighbor of Afgh.  
20 Oxford, e.g.  
21 Make jokes  
22 Water (Sp.)  
23 Chum  
27 "Holy moley!"  
29 — about (approx-imately)  
30 Hierarchy level  
32 Narcis-sist's love  
34 Finger food  
37 Does a double-take  
39 Coy  
42 Empori-um  
44 Humor  
45 Appre-hends  
46 Hodge-podge  
50 60 sec.  
51 Sprite  
52 "Catcher in the —"  
53 Witness

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Saturday's answer 11-28**

DAB ELMS YORKE  
OIL GOAL AHOY  
ODE GAGA CITE  
REDRIDINGHOOD  
UNPEG MENT FOR  
SEEK DID FAUN  
AWN BRA AORTA  
YELLOWBELLIED  
OLIO ERNE CUR  
GANG HUNG EHA  
ANTS STYE DOG



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Scarlett Pomers, 23; Jon Stewart, 49; Ed Harris, 61; Paul Shaffer, 62.

**Happy Birthday:** You'll be pulled in different directions. Look for opportunities. Now is not the time to play a guessing game. Know what you want and use your energy wisely to reach your destination. It's about choices and finding the best way to market what you have to offer. Don't take a risk that has the potential to backfire. Your numbers are 6, 14, 25, 29, 32, 38, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Do what you can to get ahead, but don't let impulse jeopardize doing your best. Quality will far exceed quantity when it comes to both business and pleasure. Good fortune can be yours for the price of consistency and responsibility. \*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take what's rightfully yours. Don't ask or wait to see what others do. Focus on your future, what you know and what you can contribute. You'll learn the most if you take control and make things happen. Love is in the stars. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't lose sight of your goals because of responsibilities you are given. Spread yourself thin in order to get the most done. Stop complaining and get what needs doing out of the way and you will improve your reputation. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** An emotional or financial matter will turn costly if you aren't prepared to walk away. Look at the big picture and make the right choice. An unexpected change will lead to uncertainty that you must deal with quickly and efficiently. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** A change will do you good. Travel, or get involved with unfamiliar pastimes or people. You will discover something that will help you make choices that alter your current way of life. Keep things simple, but moving. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Slow down and think before you say or do something that may infringe on your personal freedom. If you want to enjoy an activity that interests you, take care of your responsibilities first so you will not face complaints. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Listen, observe and stay out of trouble. Work quietly behind the scenes where you can accomplish the most and avoid any emotional discord that is going on in your personal life. Don't let a last-minute change unnerve you. \*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't let work or someone from your past get you down or stop you from completing your work. Monitor your time carefully to get the most out of your day. Don't let something you hear lead to an impulsive decision. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Learn from your mistakes. Take a cautious position if someone wants to disrupt your household. Energetic activities will help you blow off steam. Don't get angry, get moving, and you will avoid a challenge that will be difficult to win. \*\*\*

**EUGENIA LAST**  
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Concentrate on the things most important to you. Making alterations to your home or financial situation will pay off. An emotional situation can be resolved if you face facts head-on and make whatever changes are required. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Keep your concerns to yourself for now. Upsetting someone who has worked hard on your behalf will be shortsighted. Instead, get your act together and make whatever adjustments are needed in order to get back on track. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Put more time into partnerships. In love and in business, it's how you connect with the person you are dealing with that will count. Do your best to compromise, and avoid saying anything that might upset your plans. \*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are courageous, determined and ready to take on the world.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Saturday's SUDOKU Answer**

3	1	2	4	9	8	6	7	5
7	5	4	6	3	1	8	9	2
6	9	8	7	2	5	4	3	1
4	2	7	1	5	9	3	8	6
8	6	9	3	4	2	5	1	7
5	3	1	8	6	7	2	4	9
2	4	5	9	1	3	7	6	8
9	8	6	5	7	4	1	2	3
1	7	3	2	8	6	9	5	4

Difficulty Level ★ 11/28  
©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**CYCLOTRONS** Solution: 7 letters

LENYDICSPIRALEM  
ERCETHNAPOEFLAG  
VUENAIRJTHRCAR  
ASYMETCREAYBPLA  
RABGIIAOLCRSIUD  
TERCRLCILPTGITI  
RMLAUENZSFEHIECU  
AENCESNRLTVAOTS  
JDROOLEEESASND  
EISEIQCDMWSITEE  
CCLTUTRUROOARG  
TARERIOANOOTPMDR  
OLNOVETMUUCAVNA  
RCDEFEALATIPSOH  
YEREPELMTNERRUC

©2011 Universal Uclick. [www.wonderword.com](http://www.wonderword.com). Join us on Facebook. 11/28

Atom, Beam, Chamber, Charged, Circular, Current, Cycle, Data, Deas, Driver, Electrode, Energy, Force, Frequency, Gaps, Hospital, Injection, Leo Szilard, Light, Mass, Measure, Medical, Motion, Nuclear, Orbit, Particle, Path, Phase, Physics, Power, Radius, Rate, Repel, Science, Spiral, Stream, Target, Trajectory, Travel, Vacuum, Velocity

**Last Saturday's Answer: Magdalena**

To solve this puzzle, find the words in the puzzle. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword. The Wonderword is: MAGDALENA.



# CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED TO BUY**

Looking for a good used four –door upright freezer for restaurant use. Call Gabriel 285-8050

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution: Teacup

**EMPLOYMENT**

(1) Cook (Korean cuisine): \$5.05-7.00/hr. At least 5 years' cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. (1) Cook (Korean cuisine): \$5.05/hr. (1) Waiter/Waitress: \$5.05/hr. Must be able to work night shifts. Email resume to hankyung@hanmisaipan.com.

(1) Chef / Restaurant Manager (Korean and Western cuisine): \$5.05-7.00/hr. Must be a licensed cook of both Korean and Western cuisine. At least 5 years' professional cooking experience in Korean and Western cuisine required. High-school diploma or equivalent required. Email resume to star@hanmisaipan.com.

**STYROFOAM**  
**4'X8' SHEETS**  
**TEL.: 287-3700**

**MAKE-A-WISH**  
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,  
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104, Tamuning, Guam 96913  
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293  
Email: mawiguam@ite.net • www.wish.org  
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily  
Saipan Tribune

**Saipan Health clinic and St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.**  
**at Chalan Kiya, Saipan**

Job Vacancy Announcement

**PHYSICIAN (01)**

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Medical Director and must be able to do the following:

- Responds and diagnose medical/health problems presented by patients and prescribe and administer treatments for patients and prescribe and administer treatments for patients suffering from injuries and diseases.
- Examines patients, obtain medical histories, order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests.
- Counsel patients on diet, hygiene and preventive healthcare.
- Maintain confidentiality and impartiality.
- Organize preventive health programs for individual patients.
- Provides special clinics for specific conditions for certain groups and/or refer patients to public health or other healthcare entities e.g. diabetes, smoking cessation, new babies.
- Commissioning healthcare by liaising with medical professionals in the community and hospitals.
- Promotes health education in conjunction with other health professionals.
- Keeping up to date with medical developments, new drugs, treatments and medications including complimentary medicines.
- Provides medical assistants to hemodialysis patients and confer with the Medical Director and Nephrologists on any medical problems presented by the patients.

- Graduate from School of Medicine
- Must pass U.S. Medical Licensing Exam
- Must have 2 years or more experience in the field of medicine.
- Must be fluent in English

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at [hpcshc@pticom.com](mailto:hpcshc@pticom.com). No phone calls please.

**CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES**

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

**CLASSIFIED LINER ADS**

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$27</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE**

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

**CANCELLATION**

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

**CHECK YOUR ADS**

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**ADVERTISING POLICY**

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-067

Opening Date: 11/28/11  
Closing Date: Until Filled

**LAB SPECIALIST**

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Water Laboratory Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Conducts either chemical or microbiological tests on samples to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency. Prepares tests on samples submitted by customers. Prepares solutions and standards. Prepares and maintains mandatory records; performs statistical analysis; reviews and enters data; reports test results to Laboratory Manager and local and federal agencies. Responds to customer complaints to include verifying water quality and conducting field tests. Replenishes lab supply. Collects a variety of samples to include composite, wastewater treatment and receiving water samples. Participates in environmental awareness such as participating in conferences and giving presentations at schools. Calibrates laboratory equipment. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

**LOCATION:** COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, WATER-LAB, SAIPAN  
**POSITIONS:** One (1).  
**SALARY:** \$27,826.00 - \$32,885.00 per annum; Unclassified; Ungraded.  
**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelors Degree in Chemistry, Microbiology, or related field plus proven experience that could be applied towards laboratory work for a water and wastewater utility. Knowledge of: Mathematics; Laboratory procedures; Microbiology and chemistry; CNMI and EPA rules and regulations; Safety procedures. Skills in: Collecting samples; Performing routine to complex analysis; Preparing media; Following laboratory procedures; Calibrating equipment; Maintaining required records and reports; Providing customer service; Giving presentations; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. CNMI Driver's License. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER  
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

**Temporary**  
**National Soccer Coach**  
**2/01/12 -11/30/12**

Saipan. Coach national soccer players in the fundamentals of soccer. Demonstrate techniques and methods of participation and prepare the team for international competitions. May evaluate athletes' strengths and weaknesses as possible recruits or to improve the athletes' technique to prepare them for competition. Plan, organize, and conduct practice sessions. Provide training direction, encouragement, and motivation in order to prepare athletes for games, competitive events, and/or tours. Identify and recruit potential athletes. Plan and direct physical conditioning programs that will enable athletes to achieve maximum performance. Adjust coaching techniques, based on the strengths and weaknesses of athletes. Keep records of athlete, team and opposing team performance. Instruct individuals or groups in sports rules, game strategies, and performance principles, such as specific ways of moving the body, hands, or feet to achieve desired results. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of opposing teams to develop game strategies. Bachelor's degree in Sports Science, Physical Education or related major plus 48 months of experience in the job offered. Resume must reflect the experience required and references will be verified. No OJT provided. \$5,000/month. Includes room, use of car, health insurance, and round trip transportation to/from Saipan. 40 hours/week. Mon to Fri from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Send résumé reflecting all requirements to: Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, Attn: Edward Salas, PMB 338, PO Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950. Ph/fax 670-235-0173. [esalas@nmifa.com](mailto:esalas@nmifa.com)

Subscribe to the CNMI's  
First Daily Newspaper  
Call 235-NEWS

**Saipan Tribune**

**WHATZIT?**<sup>TM</sup>

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**K  
A  
E  
T**

Find today's solution in classified section

[www.facebook.com/dingbatgames](http://www.facebook.com/dingbatgames)

W-A-ZIT? © 2011 www.whatzit.com  
Disseminated by Universal Uclick



# Tentative deal moves the NBA lockout closer to end



**NEW YORK (AP)—**With a Christmas Day tripleheader on everyone's wish list and a tentative labor agreement in place, NBA owners and union officials went back to work Saturday, relaying details of the deal with hopes of cementing it quickly.

After a 149-day lockout that ultimately will cost the league approximately a half-billion dollars in losses, a marathon bargaining session produced a handshake agreement earlier in the day—actually, just a few hours before daybreak.

Commissioner David Stern still must sell his owners on an agreement that could change the way they do business. And the players, looking beat and beaten, face a tougher healing process in approving a pact that significantly limits their earnings.

But considering everything owners sought when these negotiations opened with a contentious meeting at the All-Star break in February 2010, perhaps they will feel relieved they got as much as they did.

Players' association executives Derek Fisher and Maurice Evans hardly looked enthused about the agreement as they sat next to executive director Billy Hunter on the same side of a conference table with Stern, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver and Spurs owner Peter Holt, the chairman of the league's labor relations committee.

But at least they weren't sitting in a courtroom, where they appeared headed less than two weeks earlier.

Just 12 days after talks broke down, Stern and Hunter appeared together after 3 a.m. Saturday to announce the 10-year deal, with either side able to opt out after the sixth year. It leaves the NBA with its second shortened season (the first was the 50-game 1998-99 season), with the hope of getting in 66 games instead of a full 82-game schedule.

Stern said he expects the labor committee to endorse the deal and recommend it to the full board for approval.

The players' side has revealed little of its feelings about the deal, noting the pending antitrust litigation in its desire to keep details quiet. But players always preferred to be on the court, rather than in it, and now they finally have the chance - starting Christmas Day.

For the season openers, it would be Boston at New York, Miami at Dallas and Chicago at the Lakers - sorry, little guys, the big markets still rule Christmas.

Now, the regular season would end one week later and push back NBA finals a week, potentially setting up a Game 7 on June 28, 2012.

The deal also calls for no hard salary cap, no rollbacks of existing salaries and contracts can still be fully guaranteed. Owners had called for all of that,



In this Nov. 10, 2011 file photo, NBA commissioner David Stern speaks during a news conference in New York. NBA owners and players reached a tentative agreement early Saturday morning Nov. 26, 2011 to end the 149-day lockout. The league plans a 66-game season and aims to open camps Dec. 9.

seeking a route to profitability after saying they lost \$300 million last season, and believing they would create a level of parity that had been missing.

But players' annual raises were trimmed from 10.5 percent for those re-signing with their own teams and 8 percent for those leaving to 7.5 percent and 4.5 percent respectively. Rules implemented to curb spending by teams over the luxury tax will limit some of their options in free agency.

Owners relented slightly on their previous insistence that players receive no more than 50 percent of basketball-related income after they were guaranteed 57 percent in the old CBA. The target is still a 50-50 split, but with a band from 49 percent to 51 percent

that gives the players a better chance of reaching the highest limit than previously proposed.

"I appreciate what Billy and Derek and the players have compromised on because it will allow us, as a small market, to be competitive and create more parity across all 30 teams," Holt said. "We are really excited. We are excited for the fans. We're excited to start playing basketball for the players and for everybody involved."

Details were provided to owners Saturday afternoon in what would be described as a largely congratulatory teleconference. A person with knowledge of the meeting told The Associated Press that some owners said they wished certain issues - usually ones specific to smaller markets - were ad-

dressed, but many were simply relieved the process was nearing an end.

"The way the deal shakes out, particularly the system issues, there's something in there for every owner to hate," the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the pact still needs to be ratified. "A number of the small market owners may feel bad that they were not protected the way they thought they were going to be protected. Having said that, virtually all of them say it's better to play than not to play or lose the season."

Players filed an amended antitrust lawsuit in Minnesota on Monday that could have earned the players billions but surely would have come at the cost of at least the entire 2011-12 season.

The sides said all along the only way to a deal was through negotiating. They got back together Tuesday, setting the way for the pivotal meeting that began Friday.

"I think we saw a willingness of both sides to compromise yet a little more and to reach this agreement," Silver said. "We look forward to opening on Christmas Day and we are excited to bring NBA basketball back and that's most important."

Now, players must drop a lawsuit against the league and reform their disbanded union before they can vote on the deal. Hunter said it could take anywhere from three days to a week to get that completed.

Once the pact is approved, it would pave the way for training camps and free agency to open simultaneously Dec. 9, setting off a chaotic flurry of activity that could leave coaches running practices with different players arriving each day. There could be an even larger pool of free agents if teams use the amnesty clause, which allows them to waive one player during the deal and have 100 percent of his salary taken off the cap and the tax.

President Barack Obama gave a thumbs-up when told about the tentative settlement after he finished playing basketball at Fort McNair in Washington on Saturday morning.

Because the union disbanded, a new collective bargaining agreement can only be completed once the union has reformed. Drug testing and other issues still must be negotiated between the players and the league, which also must dismiss its lawsuit regarding the legality of the lockout.

"We're very pleased we've come this far," Stern said. "There's still a lot of work to be done."

A number of minor issues remain unsettled, such as sponsorship patches being added to jerseys and how the preseason should work.

Some major matters - like revenue sharing, which the NBA has said it will not really dive into until a new CBA is

complete - remain on the table as well. Meetings on that issue take place every few days, and the person briefed on the status of the NBA's discussions said many teams are not thrilled by the notion of paying both a luxury tax and into a revenue-sharing pool.

When the NBA returns, owners hope to find the type of parity that exists in the NFL, where the small-market Green Bay Packers are the current champions. The NBA has been dominated in recent years by the biggest spenders, with Boston, Los Angeles and Dallas winning the last four titles.

"I think it will largely prevent the high-spending teams from competing in the free-agent market the way they've been able to in the past. It's not the system we sought out to get in terms of a harder cap, but the luxury tax is harsher than it was. We hope it's effective," Silver said.

"We feel ultimately it will give fans in every community hope that their team can compete for championships."

Owners locked out the players July 1, and the sides spent most of the summer and fall battling over the division of revenues and other changes owners wanted in a new collective bargaining agreement. They said they lost hundreds of millions of dollars in each year of the former deal, ratified in 2005, and they wanted a system where the big-market teams wouldn't have the ability to outspend their smaller counterparts.

Players fought against those changes, and scored some concessions at the end. The full midlevel exception of \$5 million a year for four years will be available to all teams as long as the signing doesn't take them more than \$4 million over the tax, and the "mini midlevel" for taxpayers was increased to \$3 million a year for three years.

"This was not an easy agreement for anyone. The owners came in having suffered substantial losses and feeling the system wasn't working fairly across all teams," Silver said. "I certainly know the players had strong views about expectations in terms of what they should be getting from the system. It required a lot of compromise from both parties' part."

Stern denied the antitrust litigation was a factor in accelerating a deal, but things happened relatively quickly after the players filed.

"For us the litigation is something that just has to be dealt with," Stern said. "It was not the reason for the settlement. The reason for the settlement was we've got fans, we've got players who would like to play and we've got others who are dependent on us. And it's always been our goal to reach a deal that was fair to both sides and get us playing as soon as possible, but that took a little time."

## Surprise and joy around the NBA as deal draws near

**MIAMI (AP)—**Surprise, relief, joy and even some caution.

Such was the reaction of many NBA players and fans Saturday, amid news that the labor dispute which led to the cancellation of hundreds of games and threatened the entire season was nearing an end.

No schedules are out, the collective bargaining agreement has not been drafted and formal votes on the deal remain unscheduled. Still, for the first time in months, optimism seemed to take the lead over pessimism on the NBA's emotional scoreboard.

"The journey now begins!!!" soon-to-be Cleveland guard

Kyrie Irving, the league's No. 1 draft pick, wrote on Twitter.

Well, soon enough, anyway.

Barring either side rejecting the deal, training camps will open Dec. 9, with the league's first three games set to be played on Christmas Day. The Utah Jazz invited fans to start calling again to discuss ticket options, the reigning NBA champion Dallas Mavericks wrote "Go Mavs" on Twitter shortly after the middle-of-the-night news conference to announce the breakthrough, and Shaquille O'Neal recorded a brief video to show his excitement.

"Haven't crossed the fin-

ish line yet," wrote Orlando guard J.J. Redick, "but there's definitely a reason to be optimistic."

The league and the union announced around 3 a.m. that they had struck a tentative deal calling for a 66-game season, meaning many owners—and players—were asleep, unaware of the news until they awoke. Miami guard Dwyane Wade was text-messaging with an associate shortly after 4 a.m. Eastern, and his reaction was subdued given the lateness of the hour.

"All I feel right now is 'Finally,'" Wade said to The Associated Press.

Free agent Shane Battier said he was getting "mad love" from fans in Memphis, Miami, Oklahoma City and Houston—teams that all figure to be in the mix for his services.

"I am happy it looks like we'll get to start winning our fans back," Battier wrote. "Thanks for the patience. Need to read new details before I pop the bubbly."

Later, Battier poked fun at himself, saying that tweet made him sound like "a conservative old man," adding that he was happy to just talk basketball again.

So was just about everyone else.



# Federer reaches 100th career final



**L O N D O N**

(AP)—Every time Roger Federer steps onto the court, another milestone seems to be within grasp.

He seized another one Saturday, reaching his 100th career final by beating David Ferrer 7-5, 6-3 in the semifinals of the ATP World Tour Finals. Federer could add a few more Sunday. He's in position to win his 70th title overall and a record sixth at the season-ending tournament for the world's top eight players.

"It's obviously a special occasion for me," said Federer, who will play Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final.

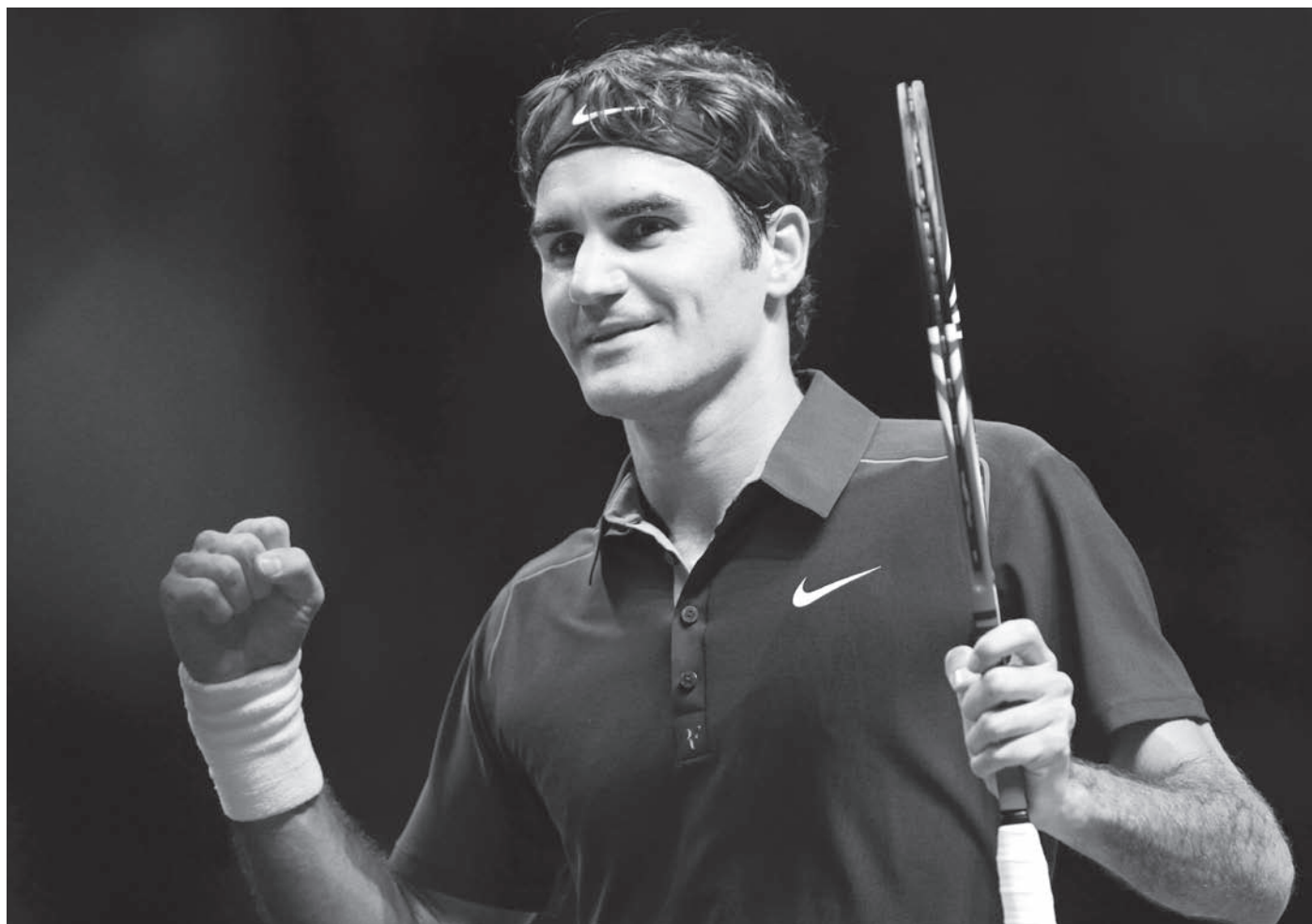
Tsonga beat Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-3, 7-5 in the late match, putting the sixth-seeded Frenchman into the final of this event for the first time, in only his second appearance.

"Roger is the best player for the moment indoors," Tsonga said. "It's going to be really special here, for my first final here. It's going to be an amazing atmosphere on court, and I like that. ... I know it's the last match (of the year) so I will give it everything."

The victory over Ferrer sent Federer past Andy Murray to No. 3 in the year-end rankings, trailing No. 1 Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic and Nadal were eliminated after losing two of their round-robin matches this week, both saying their minds and bodies weren't up for top-level tennis following another grueling season. Murray pulled out injured following his opening loss to Ferrer on Monday.

Federer—who holds a record 16 Grand Slam titles—is tied with Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras with five victories at the



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts to his win over David Ferrer at the end of a semifinal single tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals at O2 Arena in London, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011.

ATP Finals, formerly known as the Masters Cup. A win Sunday would also tie Lendl's record of 39 match victories in the event.

Federer became the fifth player to reach 100 finals in the open era, joining Jimmy Connors (163), Lendl (146), John McEnroe (108) and Guillermo Vilas (104).

"I'm shocked every time that I've reached so many finals or won against so many players or whatever record it is," Federer said. "It strikes me and makes me obviously very happy and very proud that I've been able to do it for so many years at the highest of levels."

And with his 806th victory Saturday, Federer moved into a share of sixth place on the career list with Stefan Edberg.

"Stefan was my idol," Federer said. "So to achieve something that he achieved is obviously very nice. I don't think it matters much, but it's still very nice to get reminded that you equaled your idol's or hero's achievements."

In a tournament where his biggest rivals complained of fatigue after failing to make it out of the group stage, Federer showed no signs of slowing down. The 30-year-old Swiss star extended his unbeaten

streak to 16 matches after winning titles in Basel and Paris before coming to London.

Federer has played some of his best tennis of the year in London, and while he did not look as sharp against Ferrer as he did in his three group-stage victories, he never faced a break point. He broke the fifth-seeded Spaniard twice in the second set and converted his second match

point with a forehand winner.

Ferrer came within two points of the first set six times in Federer's service game when the Spaniard led 5-4. But he never earned a break point in a game that went to deuce five times, and Federer finally held when Ferrer sent a backhand passing shot wide. That marked a turning point, with Federer winning the next four games as well to

take control.

"Obviously it was a key 5-4 game for me," Federer said. "That was a crucial sort of 15, 20 minutes for me. I'm happy I was able to decide the match right there."

Ferrer dropped to 0-12 against Federer. The Spaniard started the week by beating Murray and Djokovic convincingly, but couldn't keep up that level of play less than 16 hours after losing a three-set match against Berdych on Friday.

"Maybe I didn't have really time to relax, but (that) is not the excuse here," Ferrer said. "He played better than me."

Berdych also struggled against the rested Tsonga, landing just 53 percent of his first serves and double-faulting five times—including on break point to go down 4-3 in the second set.

The Czech broke back immediately but then lost serve again to let Tsonga take a decisive 6-5 lead, and the Frenchman served out the match with an ace.

Tsonga will play Federer for the third Sunday in a row, after losing to him in the Paris final two weeks ago and their first round-robin match in London last weekend.

In doubles, Max Mirnyi of Belarus and Daniel Nestor of Canada reached the final, beating American twins Bob and Mike Bryan 7-6 (6), 6-4. They will play Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Marcin Matkowski of Poland, who beat Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes of India 6-4, 4-6, 10-6.

## Ireland holds 2-stroke lead at World Cup



**HAINAN, China**

(A P) —

Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell will head into the final round of the World Cup with a two-stroke lead after a convincing performance for Ireland in the fourballs on Saturday.

The Irish duo hit eight birdies to finish the third round with an 8-under 64, and a 21-under total of 195 at the Mission Hills complex.

However, the second-ranked McIlroy and 2010 U.S. Open champion McDowell will be unable to rest easy Sunday with Germany, South Africa and the United States all tied for second at 197.

Martin Kaymer and Alex Cejka made 11 birdies in their 11-under 61 on the Blackstone course carved out of cooled lava rock.

"We saw the scoreboard on the sixth green and we saw Germany were off to a flyer," McDowell said. "We actually expected that today. We are

probably a little disappointed that we couldn't pick up a couple more shots on the way in. We really could have put a little bit of daylight between us and the chasing pack."

McDowell did not need reminding about what the Ireland team faces on Sunday.

"We are going to have to go and play well tomorrow—it's as simple as that," he said.

Germany's feat was matched by South Africans Charl Schwartzel and Louis Oosthuizen, who also managed a 61.

The U.S. team of Gary Woodland and Matt Kuchar had 10 birdies and one bogey in a 9-under 63.

"Today was a great day. We ham and egged it pretty well," Woodland said. "Matt really got us going early. I was kind of all over the place, and he made a birdie on the first hole and got the edge off—and then made three or four in a row. I was struggling and he picked me up. "Fortunately, I made some

putts on the back nine. Hopefully gives us a lot more momentum going into tomorrow."

Australia slipped to fifth place with a 198 as Brendon Jones and Richard Green on the wet and humid course had a 67.

Edoardo and Francesco Molinari put defending champion Italy back into contention with an 8-under 64 that left them tied for seventh with Mexico at 16 under.

But Ian Poulter and Justin Rose of England saw their hopes of lifting the trophy slip in the inclement conditions, with two bogeys in their 4-under 68. They have a share of 15th with Zimbabwe at 13 under.

Zhang Xinjun and Liang Wenchong of China were at 12 under.

Sunday's final round of the \$7.5 tournament will see a return to the tricky foursomes alternate shot format.

The World Cup features 28 teams and is being staged biennially following golf's inclusion in the Olympics for 2016.

## Chili Davis becomes A's hitting coach under Melvin



**OAKLAND, Calif.**

(AP)—

Bob Melvin and Chili Davis have remained close friends since their days as teammates with the San Francisco Giants as young major leaguers.

Twice before, Melvin had expressed interest in hiring Davis as his hitting coach—in Seattle and again with the Arizona Diamondbacks. They have golfed together and gone mountain biking.

Davis is on Melvin's staff at last, hired Saturday as Oakland's hitting coach to complete the Athletics' staff heading into 2012.

"I do understand this is a business. Bobby and I have been friends for a very long time," Davis said from his home in the Phoenix area. "I feel very comfortable having him as the guy that's running the show on the field for us. It's good to know you're working for someone you're familiar with, who's a friend and he has your back and you have his back also."

Melvin took over for the fired Bob Geren in June and went 35-35 after the All-Star break and 47-52 overall while dealing with key injuries to the starting rotation. He received a three-year deal late in the season to

continue as the club's manager. The A's (74-88) went a fifth straight year without a winning record or playoff berth since being swept in the 2006 AL championship series by Detroit.

Davis plans to get to work right away making contact with players, meeting in person with those who are already in Arizona.

Oakland has a pair of switch-hitting starters, Jemile Weeks and Cliff Pennington, who stand to learn plenty from Davis.

"The biggest thing I've learned the last two years is the most important thing they look for is that you really care and you're going to be consistent with what you say to them and that you really are paying attention," Davis said.

Davis spent the first seven of his 19 major league seasons with the Giants, who selected the Jamaica native in the 11th round of the 1977 draft. Returning to the Bay Area to work under Melvin was appealing.

"I know he's tried to hire me twice, once with the Seattle Mariners—a job I was looking forward to getting and didn't get it—and then with the Arizona Diamondbacks. I guess the third time's the charm," Davis said. "This couldn't have happened at

a better place and a better area. I have ties there. I have always loved the Bay Area. I spent a lot of time in the Bay Area. I started my career there. That's a huge part of the excitement for me."

Davis, one of baseball's most accomplished switch hitters, was a three-time All-Star and won three World Series titles while also playing for the Angels, Twins, Royals and New York Yankees.

He is a career .274 hitter with 350 home runs, 1,372 RBIs and a .451 slugging percentage in 2,436 games.

Davis replaces Gerald Perry, who contract wasn't renewed.

Meanwhile, the the Toronto Blue Jays acquired second baseman Luis Valbuena from the Cleveland Indians on Saturday in exchange for cash considerations.

The 25-year-old Valbuena appeared in 17 games for Cleveland last season, batting .209 with one home run and one RBI.

The left-handed hitter has played in 229 major league games over four seasons for Seattle (2008) and Cleveland (2009-11), with a .226 average with 13 home runs and 57 RBI.

With the move, the Blue Jays have 40 players on the 40-man roster



# Nelvis tops Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-ball tourney



Marc Brian Nelvis defeated Erwin Gomez to grab the championship

in the 7th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-ball Tournament held last week at 19th Hole.

The competition was first-class and intense, with many top players watching helplessly as one mistake opened the door for their opponent to finish the game.

Nelvis earned \$142.50, a frozen turkey, and the first place trophy for his efforts. Turkeys also went to Gomez and Chester Cuento, who took home \$85.50 and \$57.00 for second and third place.

The turkeys, and the \$285 pot, drew 19 of Saipan's best pool players in what was the most competitive, and possibly the strongest, field yet for the annual event.

Nelvis claimed the high ground early, besting Mei Rengil, Norman Tenorio, Jerry Soriano, and Cuento to head the winner's bracket.

Tenorio had beaten Rowel Mariano, while Soriano notched victories over Rick Rengil and Taylor Watanabe, who had sent Victor Hocog to



Marc Brian Nelvis, winner of the 7th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-ball Tournament, is flanked by runner-up Erwin Gomez, right, and third placer Chester Cuento, during the awards ceremony at the 19th Hole last week.

the loser's bracket.

Cuento came out of the bottom half of the bracket, crowded with the three extra players who had made arrangements

to come late. "We'll stop at 16 spots next time," said Ken Phillips of 19th Hole. "It's tough for some players to have an extra game against this lev-

el of competition."

Cuento topped Patrick Taitano, Nolan Cultura, Chester Hamoy, and Erwin Gomez before falling to Nelvis. Cultura

## THEA

From Page 28

student nailed a 6-2 triumph.

"After the second set, I decided I have to counter his moves on the net. So every time he hits shots near the net, I either returned the ball straight to him or made passing shots. I also concentrated on scoring on my serves," Minor said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Minor started her U18 singles title bid with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Rafael's younger brother, Angelo, last Friday, also at AMP. Then last Saturday, Minor defeated lefty Amami Sakano in the semis, 6-2, 6-0, to face Rafael Jones in the finals. Sakano stunned second-seed Daniel Park, 6-3, 6-2, to advance to the semis of the lower half of the draw.

In the upper half of the draw, Rafael Jones survived Jake Lee in three sets, 6-2, 4-6, 10-6, to duel Primo Po in the semifinals. Po marched into the semis after downing Christian Miller, but later bowed to Jones in the semis, 0-6, 0-6.

Other juniors singles winner in the second and final week of the Tan Holdings Classic were Moris Villanueva, Michael Ren, Mikayla Lopez, Cole Chambers, and Tania Tan.

Villanueva ruled the boys U15 singles after beating rival Carl Dela Cruz, 6-4, 6-3. The eventual boys U15 champion made it to the finals after winning over Tommy Choi, 5-0 (default) and top seed Chris Cajgigan, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2). Dela Cruz took the second finals berth after defeating Aaron Lee, 6-1, 6-3, and Seiya Eda, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.

The girls U15 plum went

to Mikayla Lopez, who swept Rafael Jones in the finals, 6-0, 6-2. Lopez drew a bye in the first round and won over Emily Jones, 6-0, 6-2, to gain the finals seat in the upper half of the draw. In the lower half, Rastguay also earned a draw and then beat Tammy Ackerman (walkover) to enter the finals.

Ren topped the nine-player boys U12 field, clinching the championship after sweeping Luther Lizama, 6-0, 6-4. Ren also won over Steve Goodwin, 6-0, 6-0, and Clayton Izuka, 6-2, 6-0. Lizama barged into the finals after thumping Vincent Tudela, 6-2, 6-2, and Alex Park.

Carol Lee also needed only two sets to claim the girls U12 title against Isabel Heras, 6-3, 6-3. Lee was seeded first in her field and defeated Antonia Reyes, 6-0, 6-0, to advance to the finals. Heras notched the other finals berth after pre-

and Joyner logging six in the second quarter.

In the third quarter, it was Jerome Reyes' turn to sizzle for Konstrak, as he knocked in 11 points to keep the team's distance, 76-65. Mangali teamed up with Reyes in retaining Konstrak's advantage, as the former hit two triples and added eight more markers. Mangali went on to drain two more triples in the final canto, while his five other teammates also made it to the scoreboard in the fourth to secure the win.

J.R. Ngeskebei top-scored for 8 Division with 32 markers, but only him and Leo Factor posted double figures in the loss with the latter drilling 17.

## Konstrak 103, 8 Division 93

In the second game, Konstrak also won by twin digits against 8 Division.

Elgene Mangali led Konstrak 10-point victory, scoring 27 points. Konstrak had a balance offense, as Jun Estolas, Victor Mallari, Jerome Reyes, and Jawn Joyner also contributed double figures. Estolas had 19, Mallari nailed 17, and Reyes and Joyner tallied 13.

Konstrak led from start to finish and also had full control of the match in the second canto. Konstrak was only on top by five after the first period, 23-18, but padded the lead to 15 at halftime, 50-35, with Mangali making eight points

## MDX

From Page 28

which ended with MDX /Blue Haus ahead by only seven, 22-15. Then in the second canto, MDX /Blue Haus pulled away, outgunning Saipan Boys, 22-4, for a commanding 44-19 advantage. Three players made at least six points apiece for MDX in the second-quarter attack.

In the second half, MDX continued to walk away with easy baskets, while Saipan Boys had to bleed for points against their much bigger and faster foes.

Only Gil Gapor broke into double digits for Saipan Boys with his 10 markers.

## First Game

**MDX/Blue Haus 97** — Lauron 20, Palacios 19, Babauta 14, Tenorio 13, Lisua 10, Lansang 6, Diaz 6.

**Saipan Boys 45** — Gapor 10, Odicta 8, Singka 7, Salazar 4, Buskater 4, Quemado 4, Delos Reyes 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-15, 44-19, 66-32, 97-45.

## Second Game

**Konstrak 103** — Mangali 27, Estolas 19, Mallari 17, Reyes 15, Joyner 13, Dayrit 5, Guerrero 1.

**8 Division 93** — Ngeskebei 32, Factor 17, Lansang 9, Mat. Duenas 9, Alejandro 8, Detera 5, Man. Duenas 3, Jacob 2, Culala 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-18, 50-35, 76-65, 103-93.

gave Robert Sanciango his first loss, and Hamoy had tough matches against Patrick Cepeda and Rolly Villanueva before falling short.

Gomez had his shooting eye, taking out Luis Fajardo and Juancho Mendoza and just falling short against Cuento. Mendoza had won against Nolas Kaliga.

In the loser's bracket, Villanueva got past Cepeda but fell to Cultura. Sanciango eliminated Taitano, Cultura, Tenorio, and Fajardo before falling to Gomez. Fajardo had been on a roll, playing excellent pool to oust Kaliga and Watanabe.

Mei Rengil eliminated Mariano, then fell to Hamoy. Hocog eliminated Rick Rengil but couldn't get past Mendoza, who also took out Hamoy before losing to Soriano.

Gomez continued his strong shooting, eliminating Sanciango and Soriano, then taking a tense rematch from Cuento. He missed

a long shot he had been making all night in the championship and Nelvis calmly stepped up to close out the match.

Trophies went to the Top 5 finishers, with Soriano in fourth place and Sanciango in fifth. Because of the late hour, Sanciango and Mendoza flipped a coin instead of playing a game to determine fifth.

"I'd like to thank all of the players for patiently waiting for their turn in a long match. Special thanks to Jerry Soriano for being the only player to come in before the 7pm start time," Phillips said.

Meanwhile, regular Sunday tournaments will continue, with only a \$5 entry fee. Cepeda won last week, with Phillips in second and Kaliga in third place. There are also informal tournaments on any night if there are enough interested players.

For more information, contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 788-5929. (PR)

## DEFENDERS

From Page 28

19-8, before falling to the Defenders in the first semis game. However, Faja regrouped and defeated Sinaipas, 17-8, to get another crack at the frontrunners.

Meanwhile, Faha's Byron Kaitpat defeated seven other competitors in the home run derby in walk off fashion. Kaitpat was the last batter to step in the box and the number to beat was five. He ended up belting six pitches over the fence in a row for a modest cash prize. Dave and Brian Camacho

smashed five home runs apiece for runner-up honors.

Nine teams competed in the double-elimination tournament, which had its games delayed due to rain. Organizers may hold another fundraiser and the date will be announced later. The fundraisers aims to help the CNMI Baseball Team pay for the expenses it incurred from participating and winning the gold medal in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia and for the operational costs of SML competitions.

Contact SML's Tony Rogolifoi at 288-5426 for more information.

## FAICHUUK

From Page 28

Weno's Kimberly Mukawa and Raycolyn Kerimeng and Faichuuk's Arson Menchor, Nicholas B, Jemson Sacho, and Iverson Atan topped the U14 Semint or kids class.

Sarafo's female 100-meter dash winners include Fouchuuk's Corina Suda, Neysha B, Northwest's Mary Akin, and Mortlock's Julian Dionicio and Jobie Pangelinan. Suda went on to win the finals.

The boys division winners include Northwest's Gechig, Weno's Ansalom Suwain, Mortlock's John Santi, and Faichuuk's Jun Atenisom and BJ Bisek. Suwain won the championship heat.

The Semint female 100-meter dash winners include Northwest's Tanang Sebuu and Jeslyn Jones, Faichuuk's Isennith Sachuo and Macklyn Menchor, and Weno's Oreza Pagaduan.

The boys Semint 100-meter winners were made up of Faichuuk's Emchok Menchor, Nioklai Babin, Tyson Sachuo and Iverson Atan, Northwest's Reygee Bolus, and Weno's James Michael.

Faichuuk also swept the Sarafo and Semint mixed relay

events. Sarafo's Weno finished runner-up, while Southern settled for third place. Semint's Northwest came in second place ahead of Weno in the rain.

Besides the running events, participants in the whole-day affair also joined the egg and water balloon toss competitions. The people of Chuuk are naturally taken to track and field events. A number of Chuukese athletes have represented the CNMI in running events over the years and these include Ketson "Jack" Karibiel, Tony Ichuo, and Theodore Naka.

The weekend event aimed to promote a healthy lifestyle in a family oriented environment in an effort to bring all Saipan residents from the different regions of Chuuk closer together.

"This event is a great way to bring Chuukese people closer together and it helps keep our kids out of trouble. We held a feast and showcased various running events and side games throughout the event and just had a lot of fun," said CCA vice president Inos Kenio.

The CCA is planning another island-wide event in February 2012. Organizers are hoping to use the Oleai Sports Complex as venue as an even greater turnout is expected next year.



# Weekend Sports

Several athletes/teams recorded notable performances in various competitions last week.

In the 2011-2012 Marianas Interscholastic Girls Basketball League, the MHS Dolphins capped a perfect season after beating Saipan Southern High School in the finals at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium. The Lady Dolphins went 6-0 in the regular season and were also undefeated in the double-round-robin playoffs.

In the last leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics Cross-Country Series, Hopwood Ju-

## Long list of notable performances

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

nior High School and Saipan Community School showed force anew in their respective age group races.

In the Tsunami Swim Circuit Series 2 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang had record-breaking swims in the boys U8 100m butterfly and 50m breaststroke, while teammate Angel Tan crushed the

CNMI age group mark (11 to 12) in the 50m backstroke.

In the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, many-time CNMI player Todd Montgomery led Week 1 winners of the annual competition. Joining him on the champions list were singles participants Lydia Tan, Thea Minor, Nina Engelhardt, Jake Lee, Moris Villanueva, Raj Rai, and Alina Ishikawa,

and doubles players Lydia Tan and David Lai, Ryan Cho and Nageo Chieko, and Boyet and Theecel Minor.

In the 2011 Boys and Girls FA Cup (co-ed U12 and girls U15), Paire and MP United's boys U12 teams drew first blood, ousting Tan Holdings FC U12 and Matansa FC U12, respectively.

Still in football, NMIFA had

its fall football festival for the U6, U8, and U10 age group at the Koblerville Elementary School.

In the Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run, Keum Bai Ji notched back-to-back titles in the men's division, while Mieko Carey took the women's plum she last won in 2007.

Other ongoing competitions

on Saipan continued with the Shirley's caging completing its playoff cast. Making the list are Mobil, DFS Galleria, Fiesta, Pacific Islands Club/NVM, PSS/McGraw-Hill, Shirley's, Grillin', and Hyatt. Wushin and GPPC were eliminated.

In the 5th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament, Saipan Badminton Club took the lead after Week 2 against the Berks Badminton Club, TAGA, Golden Racquet, and Shirley's BC.

In the Men's FA Cup, Inter Godfather's and Wild Bill's still hold the lead in Pool B and A, respectively.



The MHS Lady Dolphins' Melody Johnson pulls up for a jumper during their game against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO caging last week at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.



Heo In Souk serves during her and Sunja Kim's game against Shirley Kim and Gigi Zapanta in the women's doubles B division of the Traders Insurance tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.



Two runners sprint to the finish line during the third leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics Cross-Country Series at the American Memorial Park.



Grillin's Leo Galarse stretches for a layup against Mobil's Gil Gapor during their game in the Shirley's caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Todd Montgomery returns to Rafael Jones during their men's open singles title game in the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last week at the AMP tennis courts.



Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan competes in the 50m backstroke race during the Tsunami Swim Circuit Series 2 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last week.



Tan Holdings and Paire U8 players exchange hi-five after their game in the 2011 NMIFA Youth Fall League Festival at the Koblerville Elementary School last week.





# Thea stuns Rafael in U18 finals

## Defenders, Faja in stalemate

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A power outage suspended the finals of the Saipan Major League Baseball Association's fundraiser softball tournament with the Defenders and Faja tied at 14-all, heading into the seventh inning of last Saturday's championship match at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

As of press time yesterday, the title game has been ruled out as a tie and teams have

yet to confirm if they will play again and settle the score.

The Defenders advanced to the finals after beating Faja, 17-16, in the winner's bracket semis. Vince Cepeda made a walk-off homer to lift the Defenders to a close win. Before the semis, the Defenders also outlasted Titanium, 22-16, and Sinaipas, 10-5.

Faja made it past Go For Broke in its first pairing and then doubled up 1-2 BBQ, **See DEFENDERS on Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Peleliu runner sneaks her foot home just in time against a Titanium catcher during their game in the SML fundraising softball tournament last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**hea Minor stood out in the male-dominated U18 field in the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic after outlasting Rafael Jones in the championship match yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Minor needed three sets to win against Jones for the first time after losing in their first two outings this year. The 15-year-old Minor bowed to Jones in the U18 singles finals of the DFS tournament in May and then suffered another defeat to her male counterpart just last week in the open singles division of the Tan Holdings Classic.

A 6-4 victory in the opening set boosted Minor's chances of ending her losing skid to Jones, who then foiled the former's bid for a sweep with a 2-6 win in the rain-delayed second set.

Then in the deciding set, Minor made adjustments to recover and pull off an upset over the top-seeded Jones, as the Saipan Southern High School

**See THEA on Page 26**

Thea Minor serves to Rafael Jones during the first set of their U18 title game in the Tan Holdings Classic yesterday at the AMP tennis courts. **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**



## MDX/Blue Haus clobbers Saipan Boys

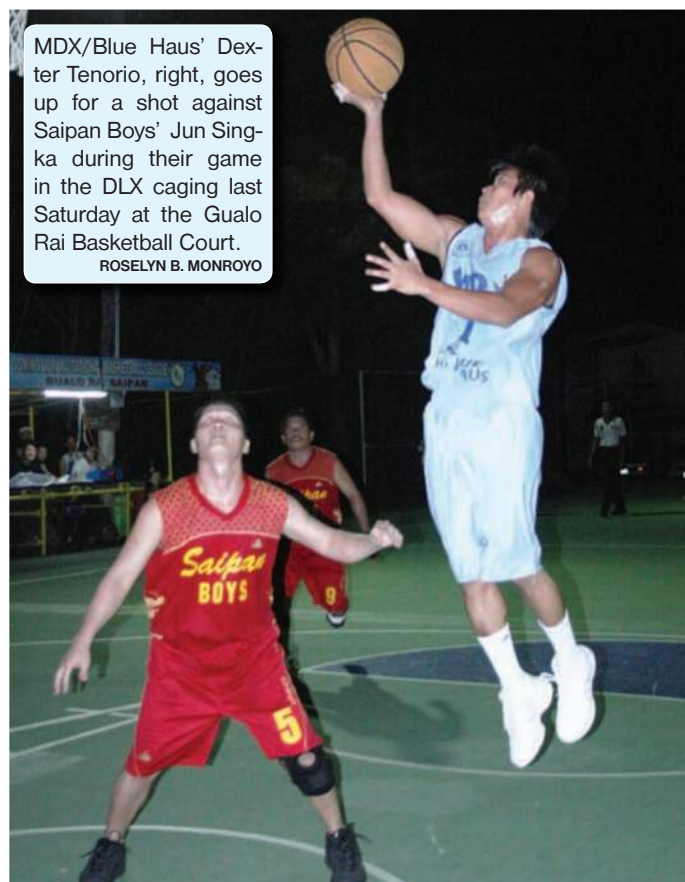
By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

MDX /Blue Haus had a walk in the park against Saipan Boys, posting an emphatic 97-45 win the first game in the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MDX /Blue Haus limited Saipan Boys to four points in the second quarter to break the game wide open en route to the 52-point victory. Five MDX /Blue Haus scored in double figures in their dominating win with Lauron leading the list after firing 20 points. Mike Palacios added 19, Zack Babauta chipped in 14, and Dexter Tenorio and Ben Lisua contributed 13 and 10, respectively.

Babauta canned two early triples in the first period, **See MDX on Page 26**

MDX/Blue Haus' Dexter Tenorio, right, goes up for a shot against Saipan Boys' Jun Singka during their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**



## Faichuuk dominates Chuukese youth event

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Faichuuk stole the show in the 2nd Annual Chuukese Catholic Association's youth retreat event held Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Faichuuk won first place

overall with 414 points after prevailing in majority of the run races of the weekend event. Southern Namoneas edged Northwest, 261-256, for second place, while Weno (191) and Mortlock (94) rounded out the fourth and fifth spots. About 200 people attended the event and they were split into five groups to represent the different islands of Chuuk region.

Faichuuk's Corina Suda, Jesmy Jones, Neisha B, Jerick S, VK Antonius, Dennis Norita, Jun T, B.J. Bisek, Mortlock's Riana and Northwest's J.R. Gechig all won first place in the Sarafo 60-meter dash. The Sarafo class included runners in the 15 to 23 age group.

Northwest's Tia Martin, Denang Esebu, and Jeslyn Jones, **See FAICHUUK on Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Runners in the Semint (U14 kids) division's mixed relay event race in the rain during the Chuukese Catholic Association's 2nd Annual Youth Retreat last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.